PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2011

COMPRISING PERIOD
19 July 2010—27 July 2010

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(FORMED BY THE RT HON. DAVID CAMERON, MP, MAY 2010)

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19 July 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 19 July 2010

TREASURY

Public Expenditure Provisional Outturn White Paper

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): The Treasury will publish the 2009-10 Public Expenditure Provisional Outturn White Paper on Monday 26 July.

The White Paper is an annual report to Parliament on the provisional outturn for public expenditure. It focuses on spending within departmental expenditure limits (DEL) and annually managed expenditure (AME), and includes information on individual supply estimates, and administration costs and near-cash limits.

The outturn figures are described as provisional because, in some cases, they will be revised when Departments publish their final accounts.

A copy of the White Paper will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be accessible on the Treasury website.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Public Bodies

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): I would like to inform the House that an additional four of the public bodies for which my Department is responsible are to be abolished. The Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy (SABIP), SITPRO (Simplifying International Trade) and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Body (WAB) will all close in the next year. The British Shipbuilders Corporation will be abolished next summer.

The functions carried out by these organisations will be passed to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

This reflects the Government's commitment to reducing the number and cost of quangos and builds on the 13 abolitions, mergers or termination in BIS funding I have already announced.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Olympic Executive Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Hugh Robertson): I am publishing today the Government Olympic Executive's quarterly report—"London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report July 2010". This report explains the latest budget position as at 30 June 2010, and outlines some of the many wider economic and social benefits to the UK.

As part of the Department's contribution to reducing the overall national budget deficit, it was agreed that the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) budget would be reduced by £27 million. Therefore the overall funding package for the games now stands at £9.298 billion, instead of £9.325 billion as announced in March 2007.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games remain on time and within budget. The ODA's anticipated final cost (AFC) has decreased by £6 million, which as of 30 June was £7.261 billion compared to £7.267 billion at the end of the previous quarter (31 March 2010). Savings have also been made in the quarter in areas including transport, logistics and landscaping.

The majority of contingency remains unreleased and the ODA continue to make strong progress in preparing the venues and infrastructure in the Olympic park, with over 70 per cent. of the programme to the 2012 games now completed. The Olympic stadium is structurally complete and work is ongoing on the field of play and installing the seats. The structures and roofs of the Aquatics Centre and Velodrome are complete and in place. The handball arena, basketball arena, international broadcast centre and main press centre have been erected. On the Olympic village, three-quarters of the floors in the blocks across the 11 residential plots as well as more than half of the bridges and underpasses are structurally complete. During the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) visit in July to view the progress of London 2012, the IOC president said:

> "The progress that has been made on the stadium, and in the Olympic park in general, is truly impressive and I congratulate the entire London 2012 team on their work".

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are continuing to help businesses and people through the difficult economic times. More than 1,000 companies have won direct contracts from the ODA worth more than £5 billion and, as of June 2010, approximately 10,000 people were working on the Olympic park and village.

I would like to commend this report to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest in and support for the London 2012 games.

Copies of the quarterly report July 2010 are available at: www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Military Low Flying

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): The amount of low flying training carried out in the UK Low Flying System (UKLFS) during the training year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 was the minimum required for aircrew to reach and maintain their ability to fly at low level. A total of 57,520 hours of low flying training were conducted across all low flying areas. In comparative terms, there was an increase of 5,632 hours, or approximately 11% on the previous training year due to operational pre-deployment training for both fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, and the continuing introduction of Typhoon into service. The amount of operational low flying (between 250 feet and 100 feet) by fixed wing aircraft was 309 hours, accounting for 0.5% of all low flying activity.

I have today placed in the Library of the House documents providing a detailed account of the low flying training that has taken place in the UK Low Flying System for the training year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

This year, information about how military low flying is conducted is contained in a main document with the annual statistics in a separate appendix. The format in which the statistics are presented is the same as the previous year to enable comparison. In future years, only the statistical appendix will be produced unless there are major changes to the UKLFS.

Additional copies are available on request from the following address:

Air Staff
Complaints and Enquiries Unit
Ministry of Defence
Level 5 Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Alternatively it can be viewed on the MOD's web site: www.mod.uk/aboutdefence/whatwedo/airsafetyandaviation/lowflying

HEALTH

NHS White Paper Consultation

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am publishing the first of five supporting documents to the NHS White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", which was published on 12 July. "Transparency in outcomes: a framework for the NHS", has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. The document is also available electronically at: www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingtheNHS.

The publication of this document marks the start of a full public consultation on the development of an NHS outcomes framework and fulfils a key commitment made in the White Paper to develop this in partnership with patients, the public and all those working or with an interest in the NHS.

The White Paper set out the coalition Government's ambition for the NHS to provide among the best outcomes in the world, delivered by empowered and engaged healthcare professionals liberated from central control and political interference.

"Transparency in outcomes: a framework for the NHS" puts forward proposals for a framework that is designed to refocus the efforts and accountabilities running throughout the NHS on improving the health outcomes achieved for patients.

The NHS outcomes framework will include a focused set of national outcomes goals and supporting measures which patients, the public and Parliament will be able to use to judge the overall performance of the NHS. The framework will also provide a mechanism by which the Secretary of State for Health can hold the proposed NHS Commissioning Board to account for the outcomes it is securing for patients through its role in allocating resources and overseeing the commissioning process that, in future, will be led locally by general practitioner consortia.

The consultation document puts forward proposals for a framework structured around five broad outcome domains and seeks views on this structure, the core principles that should underpin the development of the framework as well as the more specific outcome measures that should be included under each domain. The proposed outcome domains are:

Domain 1: Preventing people from dying prematurely.

Domain 2: Enhancing the quality of life for people with long-term conditions.

Domain 3: Helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury.

Domain 4: Ensuring people have a positive experience of care.

Domain 5: Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm.

The consultation period will close on 11 October 2010.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Ministerial Correction

The Minister for Police (Nick Herbert): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in the answer I gave to parliamentary question 4900 of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 80W about pre-charge detention.

The response, in my name, indicated that since July 2006, no individuals have been held for the full 28 days pre-charge detention period. The response added that two individuals were arrested under section 41 TACT 2000 and subsequently charged and convicted of terrorism related offences on the 27 to 28 day of detention following their arrest in a counter terrorist operation led by Greater Manchester police.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary noted in the debate on Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1019 that erroneous information was provided in the response. She also advised the House at that time of the correct figures.

I can confirm that eleven individuals have been detained for 14 days or longer. Six individuals have been detained for 27 to 28 days, of whom three were subsequently charged and three released. Of the three who were charged, two were convicted and the case of one was not proceeded with.

I can also confirm that the number of individuals who had been arrested as a result of an operation by Greater Manchester police was in fact one.

TRANSPORT

Ministerial Correction

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in the answer I gave to parliamentary question 4042 on 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 265W, about what new rolling stock orders have been placed for each rail franchise since 2007. The table was incomplete and omitted the order, placed in April 2009 by National Express East Anglia, for 120 new EMU vehicles. The full table is reproduced below.

Franchise	*Order date*	*Type*	*Vehicles*
Southern	May-07	EMU	48
London Midland	Aug-07	EMU	148
London Midland	Dec-07	DMU	69
Chiltern Railway	Jan-08	DMU	8
Southern	Mar-08	EMU	44
Virgin West Coast	Sep-08	EMU	106
National Express East Anglia	Apr-09	EMU	120

WORK AND PENSIONS

EU Employment and Social Policy Ministers Meeting

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The informal meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers took place on 8 to 9 July 2010 in Brussels, Belgium. I represented the United Kingdom.

The priority for this informal meeting was the new Europe 2020 strategy, focusing on the main objectives, as well as the implementation of the new strategy. Ministers were given the opportunity to highlight the importance of the social dimension and employment in EU 2020, through four workshop sessions focusing on employment on the first day and social affairs on the second.

The presidency underlined the importance of both competitiveness and social cohesion in the European employment strategy within Europe 2020. Its ambition was for the Employment and Social Policy Council (EPSCO) to have greater influence. This would require changing working practices and methods but would provide Europe with a greater ability to co-ordinate and steer European economies. Most member states agreed on the need for a closer relationship between EPSCO and Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN). For the UK, I agreed on the need for a close relationship between EPSCO and ECOFIN but stated that this could be achieved through greater co-ordination, and need not require changes to formal mechanisms. I also underlined that job creation would not be possible without a thriving business sector.

There were discussions on how the EU could help member states deal with the consequences of ageing on the labour market. The Commission emphasised the need for policies which allowed older people to stay active on the labour market for longer. Member states agreed that demographic change was a real challenge and that action was needed in response. Several also highlighted that the increased demand for care services could provide job opportunities in many member states.

Member states were also invited to consider how European Union level policies could foster green jobs and prepare the labour market to tackle climate change. The Commission commented that there had been some debate on what green jobs actually were and that this term still held slightly different meanings in different member states. Those who intervened agreed that action on tackling climate change presented job opportunities, but that all relevant stakeholders, the Commission and sectoral Councils needed to work together in order to make any real progress.

On pensions and social inclusion in the context of an economic crisis, member states were asked to consider a common EU framework for adequate minimum incomes. This was met with opposition from many member states. For the UK, I agreed that while minimum income policies should be considered, this had to be at national and not European level.

The presidency invited ideas on how the Social Protection Committee (SPC) and the Open Method of Co-ordination (OMC), (the sharing of best practices), could help to design and implement guidance for the framework of pension schemes in the future. The Commission introduced their recently published Green Paper on pensions, which considered how best to ensure sustainable, adequate and safe pension schemes across the European Union. This was met with mixed views from some member states including the UK who all argued that the case for strengthened European level pension policy co-ordination was weak but that improved indicators, reporting and information sharing could be helpful.

There were discussions on how, within Europe 2020, the OMC could be reinforced and the role of EPSCO strengthened. Many member states stressed that Social Affairs Ministers would need to ensure that EPSCO continued to play a role in discussions. Some commented that an increased focus on budgetary issues risked forcing out the debate on social protection and social inclusion.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 20 July 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

"A Strategy for Sustainable Growth"

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): Balanced and sustainable economic growth can only be driven by business and enterprise. Business in the UK cannot prosper while the risk of a debt crisis hangs over the economy. This Government have therefore rightly put decisive action on the fiscal deficit at the centre of its agenda. Equally though, it is vital we recognise strong and continuing growth is a key route to getting this country back on track, including paying down our debts. Today I am publishing "A Strategy for Sustainable Growth", which sets out some of the challenges and choices we face moving forward.

There are three key planks of our strategy

promoting the efficient operation of markets to support growth;

smarter public and private investment in the economy, including creating a highly skilled workforce; and

encouraging entrepreneurialism and individual engagement in the economy to support growth.

Despite the constrained fiscal environment, we believe there are good reasons to be optimistic that we can achieve balanced and sustainable growth. It is Government's role to provide the vision and strong leadership necessary to make it happen.

As set out in our strategy, a more sustainable and balanced model of growth will be one that develops our exports, enables business to grow, spreads jobs and opportunities across regions, protects and builds on Britain's strengths, and positions us to prosper through the transition to a greener economy. Government must ensure there is stability, certainty and fairness in the business environment which will encourage private sector investment and entrepreneurialism.

We also need to recognise and understand how Government policy impacts on business—and where we can get rid of unnecessary barriers to growth. Our deregulation agenda is an important part of this.

Government must also ensure that when they use public money they elicit the greatest possible economic returns. We need to make more use of our scientific and research excellence so that innovation can drive long-term growth and change, and we need to ensure we have the skill and infrastructure needed to meet new challenges and make the most of the opportunities available.

Copies of "A Strategy for Sustainable Growth" have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses, and are available on the BIS website.

TREASURY

Office of Tax Simplification

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The independent Office of Tax Simplification has been established today to provide advice to the Chancellor on delivering a simpler tax system. Michael Jack and John Whiting have been appointed as the interim chair and tax director to lead the office for the first year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Sport (Priorities)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Hugh Robertson): I am announcing today the coalition Government's three immediate priorities for sport. These are, in order: first, strongly to support England's bid to host the FIFA 2018 World cup; secondly, to deliver the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games on time and on budget; and thirdly, on the back of a successful games, to secure a mass participation legacy for sport.

This Government see that legacy for sport comprising five key policy components:

1. In financial terms, we will restore sport's share of national lottery funding to 20%. A public consultation has already started and this Government hope to lay any resulting parliamentary legislation in the autumn.

2. We are committed to ensuring that sport has an efficient, modern delivery structure. So, while maintaining their current roles and responsibilities, we will therefore push ahead with plans to bring together UK Sport, Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust under one roof so that they can work better together for the long-term benefit of sport.

3. In the elite and high performance area, we want to use the bid for the FIFA 2018 World cup to enshrine, across primary legislation, what sporting governing bodies can expect from Government when bidding to their international federations for the right to host world-class events.

4. In school sport, we want to have a renewed drive on competition. We will therefore introduce a school sport Olympic-style competition that will build on the good work already done by the UK School Games, while providing a stimulus and focus for competitive sport among schools at local level.

5. On the community sport and mass-participation side, we can confirm that, using the extra money we expect to flow through to sport from the lottery reforms, Sport England will take the lead responsibility for delivering the participation legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. This gives Sport England two clear aims, delivering on their whole sport plans and driving a mass-participation sport legacy from the games and subsequent world-class events. Plans are being worked-up at the moment and we will make a further announcement in the autumn.

In addition, I am announcing today that I have asked the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), the alliance of National Governing Bodies of Sport, to undertake a review on behalf of the Department. This will look at whether the amount of money that governing bodies agree to re-invest in their sport's grassroots, including in school and club programmes for young people, under the CCPR voluntary code relating to the broadcasting of major sporting events, can be raised from the existing 5% minimum to 30% or one third.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Rural Payments Agency

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) delivers £2.3 billion of common agricultural policy payments each year to the businesses and organisations which produce our food and maintain our rural economy, cultural heritage and environmental landscapes. Farmers applying for the single payment scheme payments from the Rural Payments Agency have experienced a turbulent few years. They deserve a better quality of service.

I am today publishing an independent review of RPA, completed by David Lane working with Deloitte, PWC and Gartner, and the Government response to it. Copies of the executive summary have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The related reports are available on the DEFRA website.

The review was commissioned by DEFRA in September 2009 and gives an evidenced view of RPA's current state as well as preparations for the EU-wide common agricultural policy negotiations, expected to conclude in 2013. The review's key findings are that:

> RPA's finance function and controls need to be strengthened, and that it was particularly concerning that the agency management could not form a view on the value of the debts that were on RPA's accounts;
>
> there are significant opportunities to provide a better quality of customer service and deliver efficiencies through improvements in the operational processes;
>
> that a significant opportunity exists in developing new IT systems for post 2013, learning from the rushed implementation in 2005;
>
> there was a lack of appropriate governance and oversight from within RPA's leadership and DEFRA; and
>
> there are considerable gaps in the organisation's controls and leadership capability.

Since the well-publicised problems in implementing the single payment scheme in 2005-06, RPA has made significant improvements, particularly in the speed of making payments to customers. This has been achieved against a backdrop of a poorly specified IT system, which constrained the ability of staff to get the job done, and reducing staff numbers. However, there is significantly more to be done. The administrative cost per payment is too high and where there are problems, it takes too long for them to be resolved.

I will not allow this state of affairs to continue. We are moving into a new and challenging phase for RPA and the review highlights how important it is that RPA has the right capability in place to lead the organisation through this period and the right degree of oversight from DEFRA. I will personally drive forward progress by chairing a new oversight board. As announced last week, the chief executive is leaving at the end of July and we will seek a new chief executive from the widest available pool. In the meantime an interim chief executive has been appointed and I will make an announcement shortly on this. The interim chief operating officer and interim finance director appointments are due to end shortly. This gives the new chief executive the opportunity to build a leadership team to deal with the new challenges. I will work with the RPA management team to deliver the standard of services our customers deserve.

The key challenge for the agency is to deliver a better quality of service, while reducing the operating costs so that both farmers and taxpayers are getting a better deal. It is also to build a strong organisation that is ready to deal with the changes that are likely to come with the reform of the common agricultural policy. My priorities for action are:

> Delivering improvements to customer experience through improving the accuracy of the agency's information, while maintaining an acceptable speed of payments.
>
> Ensuring that the agency is focused on improving value for money, aggressively pursuing efficiencies while balancing the need to provide a good service to farmers.
>
> Ensuring that the agency becomes a more efficient operation, getting the basics like financial controls and accounts right.
>
> Making essential preparations for the new schemes which are likely to be introduced after the 2013 common agricultural policy reform negotiations.

In the current financial climate, RPA will need to look radically at its operations and drive for efficiencies. Following the principle that Government should only do those things which only Government can do, we are examining how parts of the DEFRA network's assets could be marketed or be run better through other partners, while protecting key DEFRA outcomes. In keeping with this principle, the review identified a number of options including outsourcing parts of or all of RPA's operations. These options will be evaluated and considered by my RPA oversight board. There will need to be prioritisation between those investments which we can make, and focusing attention on those areas which will have the greatest impact.

I thank the review team for this report. I will be working with the oversight board, RPA staff, customers and Members of Parliament to ensure that all of the recommendations are carefully considered and action is taken. I will update the House on progress at appropriate times.

HEALTH

Commission on the Funding of Care and Support

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I have today placed in the Library the terms of reference for the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support. Copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office.

I am also pleased to announce to the House that Andrew Dilnot will be chairing the commission. There will be two additional Commissioners, Dame Jo Williams and Lord Norman Warner. The commission will also draw on the expertise of two expert independent panels, one comprising academics and the other experts drawn from the financial services industry.

Urgent reform of the social care system is needed and the Government have made clear their commitment and determination to reach a fair and enduring settlement for the system for generations to come. We want a sustainable adult social care system that gives people the support and freedom to lead the life they choose, with dignity.

This announcement follows on from the commitment set out in the coalition agreement to—

> "establish a commission on long-term care, to report within a year. The commission will consider a range of ideas, including both a voluntary insurance scheme to protect the assets of those who go into residential care, and a partnership scheme as proposed by Derek Wanless".

It is my intention to publish a White Paper next year, which will bring together the conclusions of the commission, with the work being led by the Law Commission on creating a single modern statute for social care, and the Government's vision for social care. This will be followed with legislation to establish a sustainable legal and financial framework for adult social care in this Parliament.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Serious Organised Crime Agency (Annual Report)

The Minister for Police (Nick Herbert): The annual report of the Serious Organised Crime Agency for 2009-10 is being published and laid before Parliament today. As required by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, the report includes an assessment of the extent to which the annual plan for 2009-10 has been carried out. Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office.

The report covers the financial year immediately preceding the general election. We set out our plans for policing in our coalition agreement and we will review SOCA alongside our review of the wider policing landscape.

JUSTICE

Bribery Act

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Bribery Act 2010 creates a new set of offences that should equip prosecutors and the courts with the tools they require to ensure that all forms of bribery, at home and abroad, are met with an effective criminal justice response. As I stated in my statement of the 15 June following my appointment as international anti-corruption champion, effective implementation of the Act, which demonstrates cross-party commitment to the fight against bribery, is a coalition priority.

Section 7 of the Act creates a new offence which can be committed by commercial organisations which fail to prevent bribery committed for their benefit. However, it is a defence for an organisation to prove it had adequate procedures in place to prevent bribery being committed on its behalf. Section 9 establishes a duty on the Secretary of State to publish guidance about procedures which commercial organisations can put in place to prevent bribery. We believe it is important that the guidance to be issued takes account of the views of those with an interest in this area, including both business and non-governmental organisations. We also consider it vital that the timing of the publication of the guidance allows for an adequate period of familiarisation before the commencement of the Act.

We therefore propose to conduct a public consultation exercise on the form and content of guidance to be issued under section 9 of the Act beginning in late summer with a view to publishing guidance early in the new year in preparation for commencement of the Act in the spring of 2011.

PRIME MINISTER

Machinery of Government Changes

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): Three Machinery of Government changes are being announced today affecting the responsibilities of the Food Standards Agency in England; responsibility for Directgov; and responsibility for the Licensing Act 2003. Legislation to give full effect to some of these changes will be brought forward in due course.

Food Standards Agency in England

The Government recognise the important role of the Food Standards Agency in England, which will continue to be responsible for food safety. The Food Standards Agency will remain a non-ministerial department reporting to Parliament through Health Ministers.

In England, nutrition policy will become a responsibility of the Secretary of State for Health. Food labelling and food composition policy, where not related to food safety, will become a responsibility of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Directgov

Responsibility for Directgov will transfer from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

The Licensing Act 2003

Responsibility for the Licensing Act 2003, except in relation to regulated entertainment, will transfer from the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to the Home Secretary.

Further details of these changes, and other recent significant changes, will be published in due course and copies will be placed in the House Libraries.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 21 July 2010

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Free-to-Air Listed Events

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Hugh Robertson): A free-to-air listed events regime has operated in the UK for many years and has been reviewed periodically. A review of the current list was commissioned in late 2008 and undertaken by an independent advisory panel chaired by ex-FA executive director, David Davies. The review looked at the principle of having a list, the criteria for listing events and the specific events which should be listed. Full details of the current list and the Davies panel's recommendations are listed below.

In response to the Davies' proposals, the previous Government launched their own consultation at the end of 2009. This consultation closed on 19 March 2010.

This Government begin their consideration of this subject from the perspective of not wishing to increase—and ideally seeking to reduce—the degree of regulation faced by sports bodies and broadcasters while ensuring that viewers continue to have access to the biggest sporting events on free-to-air television, through live coverage or highlights.

Furthermore, the current economic climate also points to us not taking action which could adversely impact on sport, particularly at grassroots level.

In making a decision on the best way forward we have taken account of a range of major developments that are likely to have a significant effect on sports rights markets and the broadcasting landscape in the near future. Digital switchover will conclude in 2012 and will result in the widespread availability of a significantly increased number of television channels. It will also release spectrum which could be used for, among other things, yet more digital channels. Other technological advances could significantly alter the way the sports broadcasting environment operates in the UK. Furthermore, there are issues such as the BBC's strategy review, which will cover sports rights, and the Ofcom pay TV review, the consequences of which still have to work themselves through.

These issues all point to a full review of the current list being deferred until after digital switchover has concluded and its consequences are known. In reaching that view I have looked at the material put forward by respondents to the previous Government's consultation document to see if it contained any evidence to suggest that I should not defer a decision. I did not consider that there was any such evidence: accordingly, I propose to defer a decision on the listed events regime but with a commitment to review the position more fully in 2013—following the completion of digital switchover. The current list therefore remains in force.

Annex A

Current List of Events

Group A (Full Live Coverage Protected)

- The Olympic Games
- The FIFA World Cup Finals Tournament
- The European Football Championship Finals Tournament
- The FA Cup Final
- The Scottish FA Cup Final (in Scotland)
- The Grand National
- The Wimbledon Tennis Finals
- The Rugby World Cup Final
- The Derby
- The Rugby League Challenge Cup Final

Group B (Secondary Coverage Protected)

- Cricket Test Matches played in England
- Non-Finals play in the Wimbledon Tournament
- All Other Matches in the Rugby World Cup Finals Tournament
- Six Nations Rugby Tournament Matches Involving Home Countries
- The Commonwealth Games
- The World Athletics Championship
- The Cricket World Cup—the Final, Semi-finals and Matches Involving Home Nations' Teams
- The Ryder Cup
- The Open Golf Championship

Davies Review

A review of the current list was commissioned in late 2008 and undertaken by an independent advisory panel chaired by ex-FA executive director, David Davies. The review looked at the principle of having a list, the criteria for listing events and the specific events which should be listed. It concluded the following events should be listed:

Group A (Full Live Coverage Protected)

- Summer Olympic Games (*recommended de-listing winter games*)
- The FIFA World Cup Finals Tournament
- The European Football Championship Finals Tournament
- The FA Cup Final
- The Scottish FA Cup Final (in Scotland)
- The Grand National
- The Wimbledon Tennis Championship in its entirety
- The Rugby Union World Cup Tournament in its entirety

Events Davies proposed be added to Group A List

- Home and Away qualification matches in the FIFA World Cup
- Home and Away qualification matches in the UEFA European Football Championships
- The Open Golf Championship
- Cricket's Home Ashes Test Matches
- Wales matches in the Six Nations Rugby Championship (in Wales only)

The Davies Panel proposed abolishing the Group B List

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): The outcome of Admiral Lord Boyce's review of the armed forces compensation scheme (AFCS) was announced in February. While the review found that the AFCS was fundamentally sound it made a number of recommendations for improvement. The majority of these improvements require legislative amendment to the scheme. While all the changes recommended by Lord Boyce will be implemented in new legislation by February 2011, I have taken the opportunity to make some changes more quickly, and these will take effect in early August.

Most importantly, the time limit to make a claim for injury or illness is to be increased from five to seven years. This ensures anyone who wishes to make a claim for compensation for an injury or illness that has arisen since the scheme was introduced in 2005 can still make a claim.

As well as the increase to time-limits, I have also made the following changes:

Increase in the maximum level of bereavement grant from £20,000 to £25,000. This reflects the increase in armed forces pay since 2005, and as a result the only change recommended by Lord Boyce as applying to future claimants only.

Increase in the maximum level of bereavement grant for reservists who are not members of a reserve forces pension scheme to £37,500, to help bring their benefits in line with their regular forces colleagues.

Uplift of the majority of awards for hearing loss by one tariff level.

No one will lose out as a result of these changes, or those that are to be implemented next year. All those who have already made a claim under the scheme since 6 April 2005 will have their award automatically revisited and will receive an uplift. Due to the complexity involved in revisiting such a large number of previous awards, this process will take time. We aim to have all additional payments made by June 2012.

Making these changes demonstrates the Government's commitment to injured service personnel, and to implementing the recommendations of the Boyce review as soon as is practicable. I will provide a further update when the remainder of the recommendations are put in legislation early next year, after which time the review of awards already made can commence.

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): I am pleased to announce an early contribution to this Government's commitment to reduce the costs of bureaucracy following a review of public bodies sponsored by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

All of the bodies have been reviewed against the technical, impartiality and transparency tests. We have concluded that they are all still needed, except for the Animal Welfare Advisory Council (AWAC). The AWAC was formed in 1996 to provide independent scientific advice to the Secretary of State for Defence on the care and welfare of animals used in procedures for defence research purposes in the United Kingdom. The AWAC is not responsible for monitoring compliance with animal welfare regulations since this is done by the Home Office and their independent Animal Procedures Committee (APC). Consequently the AWAC has not met since 2007. We have consulted with all interested parties and it has been agreed that the AWAC will be dissolved immediately. We are confident that the Home Office and their independent APC will ensure that the MOD continues to take the issue of animal health and welfare seriously and complies fully with all animal welfare regulations.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food and Environment Research Agency and Animal Health

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): The 2009-10 annual report and accounts for the Food and Environment Research Agency and Animal Health will be laid before Parliament today.

UK Seas

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): I am today placing in the Library of the House a copy of the report prepared by the UK marine monitoring and assessment strategy (UKMMAS) community entitled "Charting Progress 2: the state of UK seas". A copy will also be available on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' website (http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk).

Charting Progress 2 is the most comprehensive report on the state of the UK marine environment ever undertaken and is the result of a five-year study into how human use and other pressures, such as climate change, are affecting our seas. It draws on evidence gathered by scientists from marine agencies, research institutes, universities, environmental organisations and industries around the UK. All the evidence has been peer reviewed by national and international scientists.

The top findings of the report are:

Sea levels have risen by 14 cm during the last century and surface temperatures have increased by 1° centigrade since the late nineteenth century;

Fish stocks have improved but many are still fished unsustainably;

Many estuaries are cleaner and this has increased the biodiversity and number of fish species;

Contamination by hazardous substances (such as heavy metals) has reduced in most regions and there are few or no problems relating to radioactivity, eutrophication or algal toxins in seafood;

Litter, particularly plastic, was found on all beaches surveyed, as well as in the sea and on the seabed;

The main pressures on the marine environment are damage to and loss of habitat on the seabed from fishing and the presence of physical structures.

Our seas are three times the size of our land and yet while we have many reports that tell us what is happening to our land, we have little to inform us about the state of our seas. Charting Progress 2 allows us to monitor our progress and prioritise what action Government and business need to take to achieve clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. As a first step, we have published a Government commentary on Charting Progress 2 (http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk) which highlights the important messages coming from UKMMAS's work and our approach to them and also identifies where we need to improve knowledge or reduce uncertainty before we can make policy and management decisions.

Marine Policy Statement

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the devolved Administrations are launching today a public consultation on the draft UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS). As required by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, I am laying the consultation draft before both Houses of Parliament, and placing copies in the House Libraries.

The MPS forms a key element of the coalition Government's programme for implementing the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The draft MPS is UK-wide and has been developed jointly with officials in the devolved Administrations. The Marine Act provides for the introduction of marine planning in UK waters for the first time and the MPS is the first step in this new marine planning system.

The MPS is defined by the requirements placed on it by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, with the overall aim of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The MPS will be the decision-making framework for the UK marine area and will guide the development of marine plans and licensing regimes across the UK. It will ensure that, going forward, decisions about the marine area are made strategically, according to a clearly set out vision, policies and objectives. The MPS therefore covers all major activities and sectors from renewable energy to nature conservation and from fishing to tourism. The MPS sets the policy context and direction in each of these areas and the considerations that must be given to each activity in the development of marine plans or when licensing decisions are taken. By bringing together the wealth of policy objectives for the marine area, and by setting out in one place the breadth of the legislation that exists for the marine environment, the MPS will provide clarity for regulators and developers. The aim of the MPS is to ensure the necessary consistency and coherence across the UK in the way we manage our seas, while providing the flexibility for marine plans to reflect the characteristics and needs of different marine areas.

The draft MPS is supported by an appraisal of sustainability (incorporating a strategic environmental assessment), a habitats regulations assessment, an equality impact assessment screening report and an impact assessment. These documents have also been published today as part of the consultation package, and copies will be placed in the House Libraries.

The public consultation being launched today invites comments on all the documents listed above. The consultation can be found online at: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marine-policy/index.htm. The consultation closes on 13 October 2010. All interested parties are invited to participate in consultation events being organised by my Department and in the wider engagement programme set out in our revised Statement of Public Participation, which can be found at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/documents/legislation/ukpolicy-publicpart.pdf. My officials will make a summary of the consultation responses available to Parliament at the end of the consultation period.

Paragraph 10(7) of schedule 5 to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires the Secretary of State to specify the period allocated for legislative scrutiny of the consultation draft of the MPS. The relevant period for this purpose begins on 21 July 2010 and ends on 28 January 2011.

My Department is also launching today consultations on the marine planning system and the marine licensing systems in England. Together, these three consultations represent a coherent package of action that the Government are taking to improve the management of our seas.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): On 16 to 17 July 2010 I attended an informal meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The overriding aim of the Kazakh OSCE chairmanship-in-office was to secure political endorsement of their proposal for an OSCE summit. During my interventions at both the dinner on 16 July and the two plenary sessions on 17 July I stressed the need for a substantive agenda, if there was to be a summit, and for the OSCE to demonstrate the capacity to act across four specific areas of OSCE activity: conflict prevention and resolution; arms control; human rights and democracy; and transnational threats, including those linked to Afghanistan. On the afternoon of 17 July Ministers reached consensus on a summit taking place in Astana, Kazakhstan by the end of 2010.

During my time in Kazakhstan I was able to have bilateral meetings with 14 Foreign Ministers and other Heads of Delegation[1], the director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. In my meeting with the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan I underlined the need for the Kyrgyz authorities to take forward the difficult process of reconciliation and reconstruction, particularly in terms of organising a credible investigation into the tragic events in April and June. I also noted that DFID would represent the British Government at the 27 July donor conference in Bishkek.

The ongoing crisis in Kyrgyzstan was taken up by a number of delegations during the plenary session, including the Foreign Ministers of France and Germany, who arrived in Kazakhstan direct from a joint visit to Kyrgyzstan. They tabled a paper on the role the OSCE could play across the board in Kyrgyzstan and the need to despatch a Police Advisory Group (PAG). I am placing a copy of this paper in the Library of the House. I and many other delegations welcomed the proposals. The Kyrgyz Government and the OSCE reached agreement on the arrangements for the PAG subject to agreement by the OSCE Permanent Council on 22 July.

[1] Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, US, Uzbekistan.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Kabul Conference Commitments

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): On 10 June the Prime Minister announced an additional 40% of aid funding over four years, to support measurable outcomes to promote stability in Afghanistan. Following consultations with other Government Departments, my recent visit to Afghanistan alongside the Foreign Secretary for the Kabul conference, and discussions with the Afghan Government, I am pleased to confirm that the increase will focus on three key areas, which I see as critical to a better future for the Afghan people and a secure future for the UK:

First, improving security and political stability:

The Afghan Government are committed to stabilising 80 insecure districts. The UK is directly supporting this effort in central Helmand and will work with coalition partners to roll out the district delivery programme in all 80 districts. In Nad Ali, for example, a district in Helmand, a community council has been elected and has identified priority actions in education and roads. With UK funding, the Afghan Government are building two new schools in Nad Ali, to educate 1,900 children, and repairing up to 80 km of roads to open up trade and commerce.

In Kabul, President Karzai reiterated the commitment made at the London conference to increase police numbers to 134,000 by October 2011. The UK will work with European and US colleagues to help build a clean, competent future leadership cadre. We will support the development of professional standards for police and a complaints system to improve accountability and reduce corruption. In Helmand the UK will build new police stations, patrol bases and checkpoints, giving 2,500 recently trained police men and women the additional infrastructure they need to operate effectively.

The Afghan Government are committed to holding elections in communities across all 366 districts over the coming three years. The UK will help the Government work out how to elect local bodies that are genuinely democratic, represent the people, particularly women, and do this in an affordable way.

Second, stimulating the economy:

The Afghan Government have set out an ambitious programme of investment in mining, roads, power stations and irrigation to stimulate economic growth and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. The Government aim to maintain growth at 9% per year. The UK will support the infrastructure programme through the World Bank managed Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund, which reimburses the Afghan Government on the basis of receipts.

Agriculture and rural development will remain the bedrock of the economy. The UK's support to these sectors will contribute to better access to safe drinking water, 12,400 km of new or repaired roads connecting district centres and farms to markets and 3,900 new or repaired village schools.

To reduce its dependence on foreign assistance, the Afghan Government are seeking to increase revenues by 0.7% of GDP each year. The UK will continue to provide expertise to the Government to meet this stretching but realisable target, and provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Mines to establish a fair and transparent process for managing Afghanistan's mineral wealth.

Third, helping the Afghan Government deliver vital basic services:

The UK will continue to support primary and secondary education through the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund, so that within two years 6 million children are regularly attending school, up from 5.4 million today.

The UK will contribute to programmes which provide technical skills for up to 300,000 people, many of whom have never attended school.

The UK will support programmes that increase the number of young people receiving vocational training from 26,000 to 100,000 in the next three years.

Cutting across all Afghan Government programmes is the need to improve financial management and enhance accountability. At the Kabul conference, President Karzai set out important measures to reduce corruption, including strengthening oversight and enforcement bodies, and increasing penalties for ministers and officials who do not comply with rules on asset declaration. The UK will help improve the weak capacity of the Afghan Government, strengthening financial management, and equipping it to take action against corruption in 10 key spending Ministries.

At the Kabul conference, the Afghan Government reiterated their aspiration that at least 50% of aid should flow through Government systems. The UK remains committed to that target. Following intensive work with senior Afghan Ministers, a set of benchmarks have been agreed to measure progress on a six-monthly basis. The UK and other donors will need to see progress against those benchmarks to remain confident that funds are well spent and results and outcomes achieved.

I am committed to ensuring close monitoring and evaluation of all DFID support in Afghanistan and elsewhere, and will be ready to reallocate resources if programmes fail to deliver, or our partners underperform.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I have today placed a copy of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland's annual report for the period 2009-10 in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available on the Boundary Commission website at: www.boundarycommission.org.uk.

TRANSPORT

Airports (Economic Regulation)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): In the Queen's Speech the Government announced their intention to reform the framework for the economic regulation of airports. Today I am announcing the direction of our proposals.

The Government have previously announced that they do not support the construction of a third runway at Heathrow airport nor additional runways at either Stansted or Gatwick airports. Instead, it is the Government's intention to make these airports better and not bigger, delivering better outcomes for passengers without additional runways.

To deliver operational improvements at these airports, I have recently announced the creation of the South East Airports Taskforce and that group has already begun its work.

I plan to introduce a new set of duties for the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) economic regulation of airports which will put the interests of passengers unambiguously at the heart of the regime. Under these proposals the CAA's primary duty will be to promote the interests of existing and future passengers.

Where regulation is necessary it must be proportionate. Airports vary in size and market power and therefore should not be subject to identical regulation. To allow economic regulation to be used in a targeted way, I plan to introduce a new licensing regime to be applied only to airports with substantial market power and where such regulation adds real value. We presently expect this regime will apply initially to Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports.

Airports subject to economic regulation by the CAA need to operate efficiently and effectively and I am clear that significant investment will be required if passengers' expectations are to be met. The proposals I am outlining today are to reform the framework for airport economic regulation to drive passenger-focused investment in better facilities such as baggage handling equipment or terminal improvements. These proposals will allow economic regulation to be used in a more targeted way to deliver passengers' priorities and will remove unnecessary bureaucracy and political involvement from the regulatory process.

In order to ensure the financial resilience of UK airports, I will also introduce a supplementary financing duty and minimum credit worthiness requirements as well as ring-fencing conditions where there is a net benefit in introducing such measures, and require the preparation of plans for continuity of service should an airport operator get into financial difficulties.

All too often, regulation can crowd out commercial incentives to make improvements, so I intend to provide the CAA with the option, where appropriate, to respond to anti-competitive behaviour using competition law powers rather than by applying its regulatory tools. I propose to bring airport economic regulation into line with other regulated sectors of the economy by granting the CAA concurrent powers with the Office of Fair Trading. This will enable the CAA to investigate and remedy anti-competitive behaviour in the provision of airport services at airports, and where appropriate to make referrals to the Competition Commission for investigation. Supporting competition in this way may, in time, allow the regulator to gradually loosen its regulatory grip.

Effective enforcement is critical to the efficiency of any regulatory system. To bring airport economic regulation into line with other regulated sectors of the economy I plan to introduce civil sanctions, including financial penalties, for the CAA to enforce licence conditions, creating a more efficient and responsive enforcement regime.

An efficient and credible appeals mechanism is necessary to ensure a regulator is accountable. Under the current regime, persons with sufficient interest may apply for judicial review of the CAA's decisions. The industry is unanimous in its view that judicial review alone is an unsuitable process for providing accountability. The option to apply for judicial review must remain, but I propose to introduce a system for merit-based appeals, to a body with relevant expertise, against certain decisions taken by the regulator. This new system will apply to appeals against decisions on which airports should be regulated and to appeals arising out of contested licence modifications, including new price controls.

After careful consideration, I have decided not to give a new remit to Passenger Focus to represent air passengers as had previously been proposed. While it is important to have strong passenger representation, this is not the time to be make additional structural changes which would add to the regulatory burden on industry. I will therefore be exploring options for strengthening existing passenger representation arrangements.

I am also publishing today analysis of responses to further consultations on certain detailed provisions relating to financial resilience of operators and to concurrency powers. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Port of Dover

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): In January 2010 Dover Harbour Board published its proposals for a transfer scheme to enable it to privatise the port of Dover so that, among other things, it could access private investment to build capacity at the port. There was a statutory period of eight weeks for those with an interest to make representations about the transfer scheme, which ended on 25 March.

Since publishing its proposals in January, Dover Harbour Board has continued to discuss the proposed transfer scheme and the associated proposals for a port of Dover Community Trust and Employee Share Ownership Trust with local organisations, including the local councils, as well as port users. In recognition of this and the importance of the issue to the people of Dover, I have therefore decided to ask Dover Harbour Board to publish more information about the nature and likely impact of the scheme than was available at the time of the statutory consultation, including details of the port of Dover Community Trust and Employee Share Ownership Trust. This will give those organisations and individuals with an interest in the port of Dover a further and better-informed opportunity to comment on Dover Harbour Board's proposals.

Notices inviting written representations will be published in local newspapers, and those who have already written to the Department, including the local councils, local organisations and port users, are welcome to write again and provide any further comments they may have.

The period for further comments will run until Friday 27 August 2010.

Vehicle Registration Certificate

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I am today announcing the immediate introduction of a redesigned and more secure Registration Certificate (V5C) for vehicles in the United Kingdom. The new documents will be issued from 15 August 2010 for all newly registered vehicles and when there are changes to an existing registration, such as a change of keeper or address.

I am introducing the new certificate as a matter of urgency to help protect motorists from vehicle crime following the theft of a number of blank certificates in 2006. Vehicles have been stolen, cloned and sold to consumers using some of the stolen V5Cs. Buyers often mistakenly believe the V5C to be proof of ownership of a vehicle. This is not the case. The new V5C, which is a different colour, will make it clear the document is not proof of ownership and will help draw to an end the threat posed by the stolen documents. This will help buyers to protect themselves.

From July 2011, the new-style V5C will be issued to all remaining vehicles when they are next re-licensed or declared to be off the road. Their existing blue V5C will remain valid until it is replaced and at that time we will not be asking for the old V5C to be returned.

DVLA and the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) in Northern Ireland are also promoting a "Buyer Beware" message aimed at helping motorists understand the risks around stolen or cloned vehicles. In particular, buyers need to ask for proof of ownership, for example a bill of sale. The DirectGov website now has a list of checks that should be carried out by prospective buyers when looking to buy a second-hand vehicle. The list is printable, to make it easy to use when going to inspect a vehicle.

DVLA and DVA are working in partnership with industry leaders and consumer champions to make the DirectGov and NI Direct websites a central point for expert knowledge on how to avoid being sold a stolen vehicle. While no one can guarantee that motorists will not ever become the victims of vehicle crime, DVLA and DVA believe they can help individuals to make the right decisions by helping them understand the risks involved.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 22 July 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Informal Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): The EU informal Competitiveness Council took place in Louvain-la-Neuve (industry sessions) and Brussels (research sessions) in Belgium on 14 to 16 July. The UK was represented by myself on 14 July and by BIS officials when I was not in attendance.

The first day of the industry session focused on future EU industrial policy. EU Industry Commissioner Antonio Tajani emphasised the importance of SMEs, a well run EU single market, the external dimension of EU industrial policy and a strong better regulation agenda. He also highlighted the importance of the EU space sector and tourism to European economies.

The UK called for a step change in the better regulation agenda and more efficient use of natural resources. He stressed that the EU single market was the EU's most effective industrial policy, but also that open trade on a global scale could create new opportunities for European companies. The Belgian presidency concluded that overall member states preferred a horizontal (rather than sectoral) approach to EU industry policy.

In discussion of the external dimension of EU industry policy, the UK and a few other member states focused on the importance of free trade, while a few other member states favoured the introduction of protectionist measures. At a morning session on the second day of the industry session, measures to help the integration of innovation by small to medium sized companies (SMEs) were discussed. The UK stressed the importance to SMEs of the single market, access to finance and making EU innovation programmes easier to use.

In the first research session on the afternoon of the second day, the EU Research and Innovation Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn outlined her plans for an EU "Innovation Union", one of the flagship initiatives under the Commission's Europe 2020 long-term economic strategy. She stated that she wanted the EU innovation strategy to address major societal challenges such as healthy ageing and creating carbon neutral cities. She stressed the need for the EU to broaden its approach to include innovation in services, business models, design, marketing and society. The UK welcomed the Commission's approach of looking beyond technological innovation and considering how innovation policy could address major societal challenges, stressing the need to ensure framework conditions for innovation were right in Europe.

The second research session on the final day focused on the simplification of the EU research and development (R&D) funding programme. There was general agreement that the current rules for applying for funding were too complicated, inconsistent and too slow. The UK stressed the importance of the simplification agenda but said that moves away from a cost-based funding regime to one more focused on results and outputs needed to be treated with caution, as any new system would need to recognise the actual costs of the research and offer applicants a choice of funding methods. EU Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn said that the Commission intended to address these concerns through a radical overhaul of existing rules.

Skills for Sustainable Growth

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr John Hayes): Balanced and sustainable economic growth can only be driven by business and enterprise. Business in the UK cannot prosper while the risk of a debt crisis hangs over the economy. This Government have therefore put decisive action on the fiscal deficit at the centre of their agenda. Equally though, it is vital we recognise strong and continuing growth as a key route to getting this country back on track, including reducing our debts. Skills and training are a central component of this, contributing to employment, productivity and economic growth.

Today I am publishing "Skills for Sustainable Growth"—a consultation document which sets out our emerging vision for skills and explores some key areas where we would like to seek further views. This is complemented by a technical consultation document which seeks views on a simplified funding system.

I am inviting employers, individuals, colleges and training organisations to share their ideas on how they would like skills policy to be set out in future.

We will publish a full strategy for skills after the spending review in October, informed by these views, which will set out in more detail how we intend to support our learning and skills priorities.

We have developed some key principles to guide our work as we develop our strategy for skills in England. These principles are designed to underpin a strategy that will:

> Provide a respected, credible vocational training offer that will provide people with a route into employment, help them progress in their careers or support them in starting their own business.
>
> Tackle the needs of those who have poor work prospects or a high chance of spending long periods out of work.
>
> Give learners and employers access to high quality, impartial information so they will be able to choose the learning that best suits their needs.
>
> Realise the best returns on both Government investment and the increasing amount of learner and employer investment in the skills system.
>
> Give greater freedom to colleges and training organisations to respond flexibly to employer and learner demand.
>
> Empower communities to develop the informal life-long learning opportunities in which they want to participate.
>
> Recognise that in the current fiscal environment, it is even more important that public funding is used where it is most needed and where it gives most value.

The spending review will provide an opportunity to transform the skills system so that informed and empowered learners are placed at the heart of provision. We want to ensure that our strategy for skills supports economic growth, encourages progression and promotes learning for wider cultural and community benefit.

Information on how to respond to the consultation document is available on the BIS website and copies of "Skills for Sustainable Growth" have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

Dunfermline Building Society (DBS)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Today the Treasury has laid in both Houses of Parliament copies of the accounts for the Dunfermline Resolution Account for the year ending 31 March 2010.

The accounts have been prepared in relation to the operation of the Dunfermline Resolution Account established in accordance with article 6(1) of, and schedule 1 to, the Dunfermline Building Society Compensation Scheme, Resolution Fund and Third Party Compensation Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1800) ("the Order").

The accounts have been prepared by the account holder for the Dunfermline Resolution Account, Eversheds LLP in accordance with paragraph 2(1) of schedule 1 to the order and the accounting direction issued by the Treasury.

These accounts have been examined, certified and reported on by the Comptroller and Auditor General in accordance with paragraph 2(3) of schedule 1 to the order.

Paragraph 2(5) of schedule 1 to the order requires the Treasury to lay the accounts before each House of Parliament.

The Dunfermline Resolution Account was closed on 31 March 2010 and no further accounts will therefore be produced.

The Treasury has also laid in both Houses of Parliament the report it has received from the Bank of England on the activities of the DBS Bridge Bank. Under section 80(1) of the Banking Act 2009, the Bank of England is required to report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about the activities of the DBS Bridge Bank and under section 80(4) the Chancellor of the Exchequer is required to lay this report before both Houses of Parliament.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Government

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): In our first two months in government we have demonstrated our commitment to localism, decentralisation and rolling back regional government in England. We have announced the abolition of Regional Development Agencies, abolished the Regional Strategies, ended funding for the Regional Leaders' Boards (the successors to the Regional Assemblies) and are closing the Government Office for London.

We have taken these steps because they are right in principle and as part of a fundamental transfer of power from central Government down to local councils and down further to local communities. We have done so to reduce spending on bureaucracy and protect front-line services against the backdrop of an unsustainable budget deficit and national debt.

We do not believe the arbitrary government regions to be a tier of administration that is efficient, effective or popular. Citizens across England identify with their county, their city, their town, their borough and their neighbourhood. We should recognise that the case for elected regional government was overwhelmingly rejected by the people in the 2004 North East Referendum. Unelected regional government equally lacks democratic legitimacy, and its continuing existence has created a democratic deficit.

In the coalition's "Programme for Government" we said we would consider the case for abolition of the eight remaining Government offices.

I am announcing today the Government's intention in principle to abolish the remaining eight Government offices, subject to the satisfactory resolution of consequential issues through the spending review.

The final decisions on the future of the Government offices, including arrangements for closure and for the transfer of on-going functions, will be made at the end of the spending review in the autumn.

The Government offices are not a legal entity. They act on behalf of 13 Government Departments and are staffed by civil servants from these departments. Communities and Local Government is the biggest contributor to Government offices providing 41% and 33% of funds and staff respectively in 2010-11. The Home Office; Departments for Education; Business, Innovation and Skills; Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Transport are also employers of Government office staff.

We are making good progress with our programme of radical reform to reduce the burden of bureaucracy on local authorities and businesses, including removing the inflated local government performance regime and doing away with the unnecessary regional tier. Consequently many of the functions Government offices undertook are no longer necessary. By announcing our intention in principle now, we will further progress our programme of reform, allow staff, councils and departments to take account of this, and make an earlier start in the spending review on securing savings for the public purse.

I believe that the original intentions behind the establishment of the Government offices for the regions (to join up different departmental teams outside London into a "one stop shop") have been lost. Such functions are no longer necessary in an internet age and given the coalition Government's commitment to genuine decentralisation and devolution of power.

There are, however, some Government office functions, such as arrangements for resilience and civil contingencies, which will need to continue. The spending review process will be used to test which activities currently carried out by the Government offices should continue, and to decide the most cost-effective on-going arrangements.

The spending review will also consider arrangements for the redeployment or release of Government office staff, and for sharing as appropriate the savings, costs, assets and liabilities arising from the decision.

We should be clear: the Government offices are not voices of the region in Whitehall. They have become agents of Whitehall to intervene and interfere in localities, and are a fundamental part of the "command and control" apparatus of England's over-centralised state.

DEFENCE

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (Removal of Agency Status)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): With effect from 31 July 2010, the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) will cease to have the status of an executive agency of the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

DSDA was established as an agency in 1999 to store, maintain, issue, process and distribute materiel for the MOD and other designated users. In April 2006, DSDA launched a major efficiency programme under the future defence supply chain initiative (FDSCi). This completed in 2008 having successfully delivered savings of 35% in annual operating costs, reductions in staff levels of 37% and fundamental improvements in service levels.

Subsequently the operational efficiency programme (OEP) has been considering potential future operating models for DSDA post-FDSCi. It anticipated greater value for money may be achieved by pursuing a strategy of increased outsourcing and transfer of business and assets to third party providers for the majority of activities that can be delivered outside of MOD.

This does not require agency status. Moreover, the change of status will enable the restructuring of the joint support chain to improve and streamline the end to end support chain to be fully implemented and deliver significant improvements.

Service Personnel (Rest and Recuperation)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): I wish to inform the House about the new arrangements we shall be setting in place for "rest and recuperation" for service personnel on operations.

This Government are dedicated to the care and welfare of the men and women of our armed forces, particularly those on operations in Afghanistan. This is reflected in the commitments within the coalition programme for Government, including that we would rebuild the military covenant. One step in doing so is to optimise the rest and recuperation periods for those deployed to Afghanistan. We recognise that rest and recuperation is a key part of the morale and welfare of our people and their families so it is important we get it right.

But this is not an easy issue. There are very real limits in terms of the airbridge in and out of Afghanistan. In making any adjustments to rest and recuperation policy we must remain mindful of these constraints because, above all, any changes must not compromise the operational effectiveness of our forces deployed in Afghanistan.

I am delighted to announce today, however, that we are making changes so that in future no service men and women serving tours in Afghanistan (and on other qualifying deployed operations) will lose out on their two weeks rest and recuperation. Where flights home are delayed or circumstances dictate they cannot take all that rest and recuperation during their tour, as occurred, for instance, when flights were suspended because of the volcanic ash cloud, personnel will in future receive additional post operational leave in compensation. So in future, no-one will lose out on rest and recuperation they would otherwise have received because of disruption to the airbridge.

We will also increase the resilience of the airbridge and prioritise the needs of those who serve the longest—six months or more—in Afghanistan. The chiefs of staff have recommended that the best way to achieve this improved resilience is to deploy those posted for short tours for less than four months so that they will no longer receive a week's rest and recuperation in the middle of their tour. This will affect a minority of the force, primarily from the RAF, but improved airbridge resilience will significantly benefit the 85% of the force, drawn from all services, who are serving on longer tours. Our feedback from families and personnel themselves also suggests that one week of rest and recuperation in a short tour does not allow time to transit, adjust, rest, prepare and return. I have therefore agreed the chiefs of staffs' recommendation which will come into effect for those deploying on or after 1 January 2011.

Together these two measures will strengthen our operational effectiveness in Afghanistan and ensure those serving the longest tours receive the rest and recuperation they so richly deserve.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister's Questions (Yarl's Wood)

The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr Nick Clegg): In the course of Prime Minister's questions yesterday, I confirmed to the House that:

> "the Government will make an announcement shortly about how we will deliver on our pledge to end child detention and to close the Yarl's Wood detention centre for good."—[*Official Report*, 21 July 2010; Vol.514, col. 349].

I understand that this statement inadvertently caused some confusion. I am very happy to clarify that my statement related to child detention. Yarl's Wood detention centre family unit will be closed for child and family detention, but the centre will continue to function as an immigration removal facility for adults.

EDUCATION

ContactPoint

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton): I am today confirming arrangements for closing down the ContactPoint children's database, in line with the Government's long-standing commitment. Instead of a database containing millions of children's details, accessed by hundreds of thousands of practitioners, we are examining the case for a more proportionate approach to supporting front-line professionals to help protect vulnerable children from harm.

I recognise the problem that the previous Government were trying to solve in establishing ContactPoint, and the well-intended efforts that many hard-working practitioners and managers have put into improving the quality and use of data on vulnerable children. Front-line practitioners need to be able to provide support for our most vulnerable children when they move across local authority boundaries or access services in more than one area. Experience shows the potential value of a quick and reliable means of discovering whether another professional has worked with such a child. It is worth considering a national approach to that issue.

However, we have never agreed that ContactPoint was the answer. It has always been our view that it was disproportionate and unjustifiable to hold records on every child in the country, making them accessible to large numbers of people. Accordingly, we are exploring the practicality of a new national signposting service which would focus on helping practitioners find out whether another practitioner is working, or has previously worked, in another authority area with the same vulnerable child. Social workers in particular, and potentially other key services like the police or accident and emergency departments, may need this information very quickly. Such a service must aim to ensure that these children are not "lost" to social care services when they move. We are working closely with our partners to assess the feasibility and affordability of such an approach.

In the meantime, we have considered carefully whether it is necessary to keep the existing ContactPoint database operating in order to move towards a more targeted approach. It is now clear that it is not and in the light of the coalition Government's clear pledge to end ContactPoint as soon as practicable we will now proceed to shut it down. On 6 August, we will switch the database off and we will subsequently decommission it, safely removing and destroying the existing data.

We are today writing to local authorities and other partners to provide them with the necessary guidance to ensure that ContactPoint is closed down in a managed, safe and controlled way. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. As we do so, we shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the investment made to date in developing ContactPoint can so far as possible contribute to the task of protecting our most vulnerable children from harm. We will continue to draw on views, experience and expertise of front-line staff and managers. Critical to the success of any service must be that it provides a modern, effective tool that supports the front line and that it supports the broader aims of Eileen Munro's review to improve child protection and social work practice. It is also important that we keep any development and implementation costs to a minimum and that the service can demonstrate value for money. We shall provide a further update in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Arm's Length Bodies

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): This Government are committed to sustainable development and to becoming the greenest Government ever, promoting economic development, environmental protection and an improving quality of life for everyone in the UK.

In support of this, DEFRA'S new Structural Reform Plan was published last week. It sets out three departmental strategic priorities:

- to support and develop British farming and encourage sustainable food production;
- to help to enhance the environment and biodiversity to improve quality of life; and,
- to support a strong and sustainable green economy, which is resilient to climate change.

To deliver these priorities, sustainability needs to be driven across Whitehall and beyond.

I am committed to increasing the transparency and accountability of DEFRA'S public bodies, to playing my part in reducing public spending and to reducing the burden of regulation. Following my written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 36WS, I am today announcing the next series of reforms to DEFRA'S network of arm's length bodies.

On sustainability—together with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change—we are determined to play the lead role across the whole of Government. We will mainstream sustainability, strengthen the Government's performance in this area and put processes in place to join up activity across Government much more effectively. I am not willing simply to delegate this responsibility to an external body. I have accordingly decided that I will withdraw DEFRA funding from the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) at the end of the current financial year, and instead take a personal lead, with an enhanced departmental capability and presence.

I also fully support the role of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee in this area: powerful scrutiny within the democratic process.

The SDC was founded in October 2000 and recently became an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB). It is jointly owned with the devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each of them has to decide on the best future arrangements to meet their needs and over the next few months my Department will work very closely with them to ensure a smooth transition.

The SDC has made a positive contribution to sustainable development across Government and society over the past 10 years, and I pay tribute to their work and to their current and previous chairs, Will Day and Jonathon Porritt.

I am also announcing today that I intend to abolish the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 2011, subject to the necessary processes and ongoing discussions with devolved Administration Ministers. When the RCEP was set up in 1970, there was very little awareness of environmental issues, with few organisations capable of offering relevant advice. The situation now is very different, and the Government have many such sources of expert, independent advice and challenge. Protecting the environment remains a key Government aim, and DEFRA intends to draw on the full range of expertise available, including Foresight, the research councils, the Living With Environmental Change programme (in which DEFRA and DECC are partners with the research councils) the Royal Society and other academies. In making this decision, I pay tribute to the work of the Royal Commission and its current chair, Sir John Lawton. Over the last 40 years the commissioners have made a significant contribution to raising the profile of environmental issues in the UK.

A range of public bodies affiliated to DEFRA was established by the 1948 Agricultural Wages Act. Over time, this piece of legislation has become outdated, inflexible and burdensome for farmers and workers. So today I am announcing that we will be seeking agreement with the Welsh Assembly Government to abolish the Agricultural Wages Board. In England, we will be taking measures to bring agricultural workers within the scope of the National Minimum Wage Act and my Department will be working closely with BIS to make the necessary amendments to the Act itself. We are discussing with the Welsh Assembly Government the arrangements they wish to propose in respect of Wales, and will agree with them measures for the abolition of the Committee on Agricultural Valuation and, separately, the Commons Commissioners. The 15 Agricultural Wages Committees and the 16 Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees will also be abolished. Appropriate measures for effecting these changes will be brought forward as part of the Public Bodies (Reform) Bill. The cumulative effect of these changes will allow the agricultural industry to adopt flexible and modern employment practices in order to help ensure a vibrant and sustainable industry for the future.

I have decided that DEFRA should have a stronger role in developing policy for inland waterways and have already signalled our preference for moving British Waterways to a civil society model. Today I am announcing that I also intend to abolish the Inland Waterways Advisory Council. DEFRA will lead on developing future policy in this area by consulting all interests directly, by making full use of the evidence which can be provided by the navigation authorities and by forming a closer relationship with stakeholders. This decision highlights the importance I attach to the effective management of inland waterways and my determination to place them on a more sustainable long-term footing.

The changes I am announcing today will help streamline and modernise DEFRA'S network of arm's length bodies and enhance accountability and transparency. I am continuing to look closely at DEFRA'S other arm's length bodies and will make further announcements at the appropriate time.

Drought (North West)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The House will be aware that the first six months of 2010 have been the driest since 1929—this is partly attributable to more of our winter and spring wind coming more from the north than is usual (bringing with them the ash cloud earlier in the year), rather than the usual winds from the west which bring us much of our winter/spring rain. This has had a broad impact on the availability of water in rivers, reservoirs and canals, and on the environment and agriculture, with the lack of rain reducing grass growth and stressing other crops.

The problem has been particularly acute in the North West which has received only 60% of its average rainfall in the first half of this year. Public water supplies in this region are more reliant than most on reservoirs which are quick to replenish when it rains but also quick to empty when there is a long dry period as now. As a consequence United Utilities, the water company in the region, has encouraged consumers to be careful how they use water and on 9 July they imposed a hosepipe ban to reduce consumption.

I have been following developments closely and receive full briefing weekly from the Environment Agency, which has responsibility for managing our water resources. In addition, I recently met Philip Green, CEO at United Utilities, who updated me on the actions the company is taking to help protect supplies of water to its customers. Since the last drought in the North West in 1995-96, leakage has halved and is now operating at its economic level of leakage; this has contributed to a drop of almost a quarter in the total demand for water over the same period; United Utilities is increasing resilience of supplies through a new west to east link that is nearing completion. Other water companies are also taking positive action, as I saw for myself in a recent visit to Yorkshire Water; this company has improved resilience of its water supply since 1995-96 through creation of a network to redistribute water taken from rivers, reservoirs and groundwater across its supply area.

All water companies plan for secure supplies through their 25-year water resources management plans. These set out how a company will provide for a sustainable supply and demand balance taking into account pressures such as population growth and climate change. But that does not mean that they can avoid introducing restrictions in times of water shortage: typically they plan for restrictions once every 20 years. To plan for resources that would meet demand in any circumstances would build in significant additional costs, which would fall to their customers, and would have impacts on the environment too. And so all companies take a risk-based approach, balancing a planned level of service, to include measures such as hosepipe bans, against the costs customers are willing to pay for a secure supply.

None of us can predict what the weather will bring over the coming year and, while I am advised by the Environment Agency that no other part of England is anticipating imposing hosepipe bans at present, after such a dry six months we should all take care to protect the resources available for essential uses and not let it run to waste unnecessarily. Householders can get good advice on how to make best use of water from their water supplier, and from Waterwise (www.waterwise.org.uk).

Looking more broadly at the UK situation we must recognise that the United Kingdom has finite water resources, with some parts of England having less water per person than many hotter and drier countries. Using our water supplies wisely so that we have what we need for essential domestic and industrial purposes, while minimising the impact on the natural environment at a time of climate change and population growth is the challenge for the future. It is now 20 years since the current regulatory regime was put in place and the White Paper I plan to publish next summer will examine the options for reforming the industry to drive greater efficiency and improving the way we value and use our water resources.

I will continue to monitor the situation and will keep the House updated if there is any material change in the situation.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 12 July, the first under the Belgian presidency.

Belgium's Federal Agriculture Minister (Laruelle) and Flemish Minister-President (Peeters—who will chair fisheries items at Council), gave an overview of their priorities for the next six months. On agriculture, there will be a continuation of discussions of future CAP in advance of the forthcoming communication; and legislative proposals on dairy, food for the needy and quality policy. There would also be other discussions on the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) roadmap, animal health strategy and the regulatory framework on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). On fisheries there would be the annual cycle of decisions on total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas, but also discussion on CFP reform, in particular on the link between science and fisheries.

Commissioner Ciolos introduced the dairy high level group recommendations as a means to enable the EU to achieve market stability for the milk sector and pave the way for a future without quotas. There will be a legislative package at the end of the year concentrating on the first three recommendations on contractual relations, bargaining power of producers and the role of producers (POs) and interbranch organisations (IBOs).

Council was divided between those calling for more regulatory and market management intervention, and those urging more competitive responses, using the full scope of existing provisions. Some called for mandatory contracts between producers and milk purchasers, but others, led by the UK, wanted these kept voluntary.

The UK and the Netherlands argued that no changes were needed to competition law to allow better functioning of the milk supply chain, but a number of others urged relaxations of competition rules to allow producers more scope to manage sales.

Origin labelling also featured, with a number of member states against compulsory labelling, whilst others preferred voluntary labelling, especially for imitation products. On market measures there was broad consensus that reform should continue, but still a need for some form of safety net.

There was a mixed response on POs and IBOs, with France and most southern Europeans wanting their powers extended in the milk sector.

Northern member states urged caution around changes to role of POs and IBOs, warning against with the risk of creating an IBO monopoly.

The UK stressed the need for rebalancing producer power, but noted that there was already scope to do so under current rules and that it should not interfere with free market principles. The UK also underlined the clear differences in market organisation between member states—one size solutions would not fit all, and any legislation would have to minimise burdens.

The presidency (Laruelle) plan Council conclusions to steer the Commission's legislative package for the September Council.

Next, Ciolos noted the derogation from the state aid rules which allowed the German alcohol monopoly to buy spirits from certain distillers at guaranteed prices. The German authorities accepted that the derogation could not continue and therefore it was proposed that this be phased out by 2013, although Germany would be able to continue paying state aid to the sector up to 2017. Germany concurred and in order to allay concerns about distortion to the market, highlighted that the monopoly only represented less than 1% of the EU market of ethyl alcohol and that there was free access to its market for spirits produced elsewhere in the EU. The special Committee on agriculture (SCA) would continue discussions on the proposal in September.

Under any other business, Lithuania (with some support) requested that it be allowed to make advance direct payments (from 16 October rather than 1 December) to farmers due to the exceptionally harsh winter which had led to the loss of winter crops in many areas. The Commissioner said his services would deal with any individual request made, but stressed that member states must demonstrate that the circumstances were truly exceptional.

Review of Controls on the Import of Animal Products 2009-10

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): As required under the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002) the Government will publish today a review of controls on the import of animal products for the financial year 2009-10. As the new Minister of State for Agriculture and Food, I welcome the opportunity to report on the efforts of DEFRA and other Government Departments and agencies during the past year to reduce the risk of disease entering the country via imports of animal products.

Imports of animal products from outside the European Union (EU) bring with them the risk of animal diseases which, as we know, could potentially introduce disease to our livestock and crops and to the environment. The risk can also be to public health—diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza type H5N1 can infect humans and are of serious public concern—and also be high economic cost as we know from the outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in 2001 which is estimated to have cost £3 billion relating to agriculture and the food chain.

Effective enforcement and raising public awareness are therefore key to ensuring that we meet our objective.

Controls are already in place to carry out veterinary checks on legally imported animal products from non-EU countries. UK Border Agency (UKBA) delivers a flexible, risk based enforcement strategy to prevent illegal imports including using information from DEFRA on the entry routes that pose the greatest threat of introducing animal disease.

DEFRA with UKBA and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) have undertaken a focused publicity campaign as part of the overall communications strategy—inland within GB, at the border and also overseas. During this last year we have seen the re-launch of the personal food imports campaigns for general travellers in October 2009 and for the black and minority ethnic (BME) communities in November 2009.

The changes to the EU personal import rules in May 2009, in particular an increase to the personal concession amount allowed for fish, has enabled UKBA to refocus deployments to target the high risk routes for illegal meat and dairy products carried by incoming travellers more effectively. The number of seizures of illegal imports of animal products have therefore shown a 3% increase this year with seizures of meat and dairy products up by 14% and 45% respectively.

We can never have a zero risk but we monitor and assess the changing threats from around the world (such as the evolving FMD situation in South East Asia), and work with UKBA and other enforcement partners to ensure that our enforcement activity is targeted at the current risks.

Copies of the review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, on the DEFRA personal food imports website (http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/food/personal-import/index.htm), and sent to DEFRA customers for information giving them the opportunity to provide their feedback. Hard copies will also be available on request.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs /Foreign Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council will be held on 26 July in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will represent the UK. I will also attend.

The agenda items are as follows:

General Affairs Council (GAC)

Belgian EU Presidency

Chairing his first GAC under the new Belgian presidency, Foreign Minister Vanackere will present the presidency's programme for the next six months programme. Other Ministers will have an opportunity to question him on Belgium's priorities. We believe there are number of areas in which we can work well with the Belgian presidency including on trade and free trade agreements (FTAs), particularly with countries such as India and Korea.

European External Action Service (EEAS)

Ministers will discuss the EEAS decision, which was passed by the European Parliament on 8 July, and has been scrutinised by both Houses of Parliament. The decision provides a framework for the establishment of the EEAS, as provided for in the treaty of Lisbon. It sets out a framework for the nature and scope of the service, its functions, its central Administration, and the management of its staffing, budget and programming.

There remain a number of implementation-related issues to be worked through over the coming months. We shall support the Baroness Ashton in establishing the EEAS as a body which enables the EU to pursue agreed common positions in a cohesive and effective way. We shall be both vigilant and determined to ensure that the EEAS respects the competences of member states for foreign and security policy as set out in the treaty, and that it provides value for money. We will keep Parliament updated regularly on progress.

Iceland

The GAC will agree the EU's general position on the negotiating framework for Iceland's accession negotiations. Official opening of the negotiations will take place on 27 July. The negotiating framework reflects UK objectives that stipulate that Iceland implements its EEA obligations, including those identified by the EFTA surveillance authority (i.e. Iceland's breach of the deposit guarantee directive).

Follow-up to the June European Council

We expect there to be a short review of the key conclusions from the June European Council: Europe 2020 strategy, the G20 summit, millennium development goals (MDGs), and climate change. There may also be a discussion about the frequency of European Councils and the role of the GAC in preparing for them.

September European Council

Ministers will discuss the forthcoming September European Council (16 September), which will be themed around foreign policy and attended by both Leaders and Foreign Ministers. Baroness Ashton or Herman Van Rompuy may outline their understanding of the scope of discussion in September, and solicit views. Ministers may seek to debate the EU's strategic relations with emerging powers.

Foreign Affairs Council (FAC): Foreign Ministers

EU's strategic relationships (India/Brazil)

Following the morning GAC discussion on the September Council, Baroness Ashton will chair a discussion over lunch on the EU's relationship with Brazil and India.

On Brazil, Ministers will discuss the recent EU-Brazil summit, and the longer-term vision of the High-Representative/Vice-President for this important strategic partnership. Ministers are likely to discuss the relaunch of EU—Mercosur free trade agreement negotiations, and the potential benefits of increasing trade with this large and dynamic region.

On India, Ministers will assess the prospects for delivering more from the EU's relationship with this emerging power. We would like to see the EU-India free trade agreement finalised this year, though this will not be easy given some of the difficult issues to overcome, particularly on migration and EU political clauses. Ministers may also discuss other areas highlighted by the November 2009 EU-India summit, including counter terrorism. Ministers will look ahead to the 2010 EU-India summit, on 21 October in Brussels.

Sudan

Ministers will discuss the challenges facing Sudan over the coming months as the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) reaches its conclusion. We expect Ministers to agree conclusions that support:

the upcoming referenda processes in South Sudan and Abyei through substantial technical and financial assistance;

peaceful implementation of the CPA, reaching an agreement on post-referendum issues and working towards long term regional stability;

the work of the African Union high-level implementation panel;

capacity building and assistance to meet the challenges faced by South Sudan;

efforts to address insecurity and reach a lasting peace settlement for Darfur;

the work of the International Criminal Court; and,

continued development and humanitarian assistance across Sudan.

On international coordination, we expect Ministers to agree to coordinate closely with the Sudanese parties, the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), IGAD, the United States and other national, regional and international partners.

Iran

Ministers are expected to agree to a Council decision setting out a comprehensive package of EU sanctions against Iran in response to the challenges posed by Iran's nuclear programme, and in line with the dual track strategy of engagement and pressure.

Gaza/Middle East Peace Process

Ministers will discuss the response from Israel and the international community to the situation in Gaza following the flotilla incident. Baroness Ashton will give an update on her recent visit to Gaza and discussions about how the EU could assist with the opening of Gaza. Ministers will also discuss the wider peace process including the American-led proximity talks and their progress. Depending on the outcome of the discussion, the Council may issue a conclusion statement.

Kyrgyzstan

Ministers are expected to discuss the ongoing crisis in Kyrgyzstan and adopt conclusions welcoming the successful conduct of the 27 June constitutional referendum. Foreign Ministers Kouchner and Westerwelle visited Kyrgyzstan on 16 July and tabled a joint paper at the OSCE Informal Foreign Ministers meeting in Almaty, which we understand they are likely to raise at the FAC.

Georgia

On Georgia the aim is to ensure continued EU focus as we approach the second anniversary of the Russia-Georgia war. The Council will not have to take any decisions and discussion is likely to focus on a debriefing by EUHR Catherine Ashton on her recent visit to Georgia. If time allows, Ministers might discuss Georgia's relations with the EU following the launch of negotiations on an association agreement on 15 July and the recent signature of a visa facilitation agreement. There may also be discussion of the Georgian Government's action plan for engagement with Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Western Balkans

Ministers are expected to discuss Kosovo, given the forthcoming advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Kosovo's declaration of independence. The Government firmly support Kosovo's independence and believe that both Kosovo and Serbia should use the ICJ outcome to reinforce and not undermine stability in the Western Balkans region. Ministers will also discuss the EU's policy towards Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The Government strongly support BiH's ambition for future EU membership but are very concerned about the current reform blockage and nationalist rhetoric. We believe that the EU military force, EUFOR Operation Althea, continues to play an important role in underpinning stability in BiH.

Cuba

The Spanish Foreign Minister, Miguel Angel Moratinos may update the Foreign Affairs Council on the recent release of a number of political prisoners in Cuba, and Cuban Government assurances that 52 in total will be released over the next few months. Discussion may then touch on the EU common position on Cuba.

British Council Annual Report

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): The "British Council Annual Report" will be laid before Parliament this afternoon. The report covers the work of the British Council in the period 2009-10. Copies will be made available in the Vote Office (and Printed Paper Office in the House of Lords). A copy of the report is also available on the British Council website (www.britishcouncil.org). I commend the report to the House.

HEALTH

NHS White Paper Consultation

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am publishing two further supporting documents to the national health service White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", which was published on 12 July. The documents have been placed in the Library, and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote office. The documents are also available at: www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingtheNHS.

The documents, "Commissioning for Patients" and "Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health" provide further detail on the principles of the policies set out in the White Paper, and seek views from the public and external partners on some of the questions arising out of them.

One of the central features of the proposals in the White Paper is to devolve commissioning responsibilities and budgets as far as possible to those who are best placed to act as patients' advocates and support them in their healthcare choices. "Commissioning for Patients" sets out my intended arrangements for general practitioner (GP) commissioning and the role of the NHS Commissioning Board.

Through our world-renowned system of general practice, GPs and other primary care, professionals are already supporting patients in managing their health, promoting continuity and co-ordination of care, and making referrals to more specialist services. In empowering GP practices to come together in wider groupings, or "consortia", to commission care on their patients' behalf and manage NHS resources, we are building on these foundations. We are also empowering primary care clinicians to work more effectively alongside the full range of other health and care professionals and, where appropriate, to work collaboratively to combine their commissioning power and influence. The NHS Commissioning Board will provide overall leadership on commissioning for quality improvement. It will have a duty to ensure comprehensive coverage of consortia and hold them to account for the outcomes they achieve and for their financial performance.

"Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health" is a joint publication between my Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government. It sets out proposals to increase local democratic legitimacy in a way that is consistent with national accountability for a national health service. Local authorities will become responsible for local public health improvement functions.

They will have a new role in shaping NHS commissioning activities and a new role promoting integration. Local authorities will lead in assessing the needs of their populations and co-ordinate local strategies to address these needs. This will promote integration and partnership across the NHS, social care, public health and wider services such as housing and disability services. Local HealthWatch organisations, acting as independent consumer champions, will also be funded by and accountable to local authorities. To reinforce local accountability, local authorities will be responsible for ensuring that local HealthWatch are operating effectively, and for putting in place better arrangements if they are not.

The document also outlines how local authorities may choose to work with their partners to implement the arrangements and how the new public and patient involvement and local authority health improvement functions will be taken forward.

Both documents seek views on a number of questions by 11 October.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration (Points-based System)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The immigration rules specify that the detail of how certain requirements will be applied will be set out in UK Border Agency guidance rather than in the immigration rules themselves. This is essential best practice as it enables the UK Border Agency to have the flexibility it needs to make minor changes while staying within the framework set out in the immigration rules.

However, on two particular points successful legal challenges have been brought to the extent to which requirements must be set out in the immigration rules rather than in UK Border Agency guidance. The first is the minimum levels of courses that may be studied under tier 4 (general). The second is the periods of time that applicants must have held available funds for.

In the light of the court judgments I am bringing the detail of these requirements within the immigration rules. The requirements themselves are not changing, although in the case of English language courses, I am using this as an opportunity to reintroduce the minimum level for such courses which was in place before the judgment was handed down. By doing this, if the requirements do change in future, those changes will need to be laid before Parliament.

I am also making a further change to the tier 4 (general) category today to make it a requirement for some students studying below degree level to provide evidence of having passed a UK Border Agency-approved secure English language test at a minimum of B1 level on the common European framework of reference for languages. This change builds on the previous position where the sponsors of such students were required to make their own assessment of the English language level of the student. The use of an independent test is an advance on this as it should help ensure that sponsors are not duped by students offering false or fake documents to prove their English language ability.

It is right that under the points-based system, all students now need to apply to the UK Border Agency to vary their leave before being able to change institutions. This is essential so that the UK Border Agency can maintain accurate records of where migrants are studying and check that the institutions to which they wish to move are bona fide and are willing to take on the sponsorship of their new students under tier 4. Consequently, tier 4 students are unable to start studying at their new sponsor institution until they have received a positive decision on their application.

The principle of sponsorship—whereby those who benefit most directly from the contributions migrants make to the United Kingdom (employers and education institutions) are expected to play their part in ensuring the UK's migration system is not abused—is an integral part of the points-based system. The new highly trusted sponsor licence introduced for tier 4 sponsors on 6 April 2010 provides a further segmentation of the existing sponsor rating system designed to identify those sponsors who are achieving the highest levels of compliance with their sponsor obligations and whose students are showing the greatest compliance with the terms of their visa or leave. Those holding a highly trusted sponsor licence are granted additional freedoms and offered new services to recognise their previous track record of good compliance.

In recognition of the high levels of student compliance among highly trusted sponsors; I have agreed an additional freedom for their students which is being introduced by the change to the immigration rules for tier 4 (general) and tier 4 (child) students today. The change will allow the students of highly trusted sponsors to commence their studies with them before receipt of UKBA's decision on their application.

In addition, for the avoidance of doubt, I am also making changes today to our general grounds for refusing applicants, (for example on the basis of submitting false documents), to make it absolutely clear that these provisions also apply to applicants who have overstayed their previous permission to be here.

Because of the urgent nature of some of these changes, it has not been possible in respect of some of them to follow the usual convention of laying them before the House for 21 days before they come into force. I regret that this has not been possible in this instance. The changes permitting students to change sponsors where their new sponsor is a highly trusted sponsor and those made following successful legal challenges will come into force tomorrow, on 23 July.

Hillsborough Independent Panel

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I want to place on record the Government's support for the work of the Hillsborough Independent Panel under the chairmanship of the Right Reverend James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool.

What happened at Hillsborough on 15 April 1989 was a tragedy of national and international significance. The Government recognise that despite the various examinations of the circumstances which have taken place over the years, important questions remain to be resolved. With this in mind, the Hillsborough Independent Panel has been created to oversee the disclosure of the records relating to Hillsborough; to report on how the disclosed material adds to public understanding of the tragedy and its aftermath, and to make recommendations for a permanent archive.

The panel has the Government's full support in achieving maximum possible disclosure of the records, initially to the Hillsborough families and then publicly. No changes are to be made either to the panel's terms of reference or to its membership, which both remain as previously published.

I am well aware of the significance of the Hillsborough disaster, which had a profound impact on Liverpool as well as people in Sheffield, Nottingham and beyond. My meetings with the Bishop of Liverpool have confirmed to me both the importance of the panel's work and the diligence and professionalism with which it is carrying out its duty, and I am happy to confirm it will continue with our full support.

Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and I attended the Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council on 15 and 16 July in Brussels.

Discussions on the Interior day centred on two themes: how to reach a common European Asylum System by 2012 and crime prevention.

During the first session, the presidency posed a couple of questions asking whether priority should be given to the negotiations on the Dublin and Eurodac regulations and qualification and long-term residence directives while allowing additional time to consider the appropriate way forward on the procedures and reception conditions directives and whether Ministers supported the inclusion of a temporary suspension clause in the Dublin regulation for countries under pressure.

I underlined that asylum required an international response and that the UK had taken in the highest number of individuals in Europe last year. However, the UK did not believe the directives resolved the challenges facing member states: they increased the rights of asylum seekers, at the expense of providing protection quickly for those in need and return for those who were not in need. I underlined the need for practical co-operation to build the capacity of member states' asylum systems including via the European Asylum System Office and Frontex. On Dublin I said that the UK remained very sceptical of a suspension mechanism, which would address the symptoms not the cause of the problems and risked making them worse.

During the second session, the presidency posed a number of questions on crime prevention, calling for implementation of the EU internal security strategy to focus on practical co-operation and prevention, identification of a methodology for prioritising threats and identified two areas where work might begin on firearms trafficking and itinerant groups.

I welcomed the presidency priority given to the internal security strategy and the Commission's analysis of the link between organised crime and local crime, particularly efforts to tackle illegal firearms but on itinerant groups I would want more information on how they were to be defined. I noted the role of passenger name records in fighting organised crime and expressed disappointment at the Commission's recent information that the directive would not be published until next year. Other delegations also called on the Commission to bring forward plans to publish an EU passenger name records directive

Discussions on the Justice day centred on the role of Eurojust and the launch of the e-Justice portal. The Justice Secretary stated that the UK valued Eurojust and felt that the EU should wait until the Eurojust council decision had been fully implemented and evaluated before looking to legislate in this area again. The Justice Secretary reinforced the UK's position that it would not be participating in the European Public Prosecutor Office.

The European e-Justice portal was launched by the Belgian Justice Minister with Commissioner Reding. The portal is a website that functions as a point of access to a range of information on justice matters across the EU. This first release of the portal concentrates on the provision of information—for example how the legal systems in each member state work and links to websites of most relevant interest to citizens and lawyers.

Terrorism Legislation (Lord Carlile Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am pleased to be able to inform the House that Lord Carlile of Berriew QC has completed his report on the operation in 2009 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006, which will be laid before the House today. Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for his detailed report and thank him for his continuing work in carrying out the role of independent reviewer for terrorism legislation so effectively.

I will carefully consider his views and recommendations. Given a number of Lord Carlile's key recommendations relate to powers that are being considered in the review of counter-terrorism and security powers that I reported to the House on 13 July 2010, I intend to respond to his report after that review has been completed.

Security Industry Authority Annual Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): I am pleased to announce that the annual report 2009-10 and accounts of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) will be laid before Parliament today and will be published on 26 July 2010.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

e-Borders Programme

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): e-Borders is the electronic collection and checking of individual passenger details against UK police, security and immigration watchlists. It is a key element of our strategy to deliver robust border controls and it supports our national counter terrorism strategy. It helps to reduce the threat of terrorist attacks, to disrupt cross border crime and to prevent abuses of the immigration system. That is why we made clear in the coalition programme that we support the idea of e-Borders.

It has been clear for some time that the way the existing programme was developing gave rise to serious concern. Over recent weeks we have been examining the progress of the programme and it has been extremely disappointing. While some elements have been delivered, they have not been delivered on time. Delivery of the next critical parts of the programme are already running at least 12 months late. On top of this there remain risks of further delays, and there is no confidence in the current prime supplier—Raytheon Systems Limited—being able to address this situation.

The efficiency reform group has looked at the project as part of its major project assessment review and their view was that the history of the programme was a succession of missed milestones coupled with issues of quality. Since July 2009 the supplier has been in breach of contract and there have been extensive negotiations about a remedial plan; no agreement has been reached.

The supplier's performance to date has not been compliant with their contractual obligations. As a consequence I have taken the decision to terminate the e-Borders contract. The supplier is required to ensure a smooth handover of services to a new supplier.

The decision has not been taken lightly, but after much consideration. We will now seek alternative providers to secure the key benefits that the contract has so far been unable to deliver. This work will be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

To date and since the project was started in 2007, the Government have spent £188 million on supplier costs against a total contract cost of around £750 million.

What we currently have in place is the software for the collection of data in advance of travel and their subsequent storage; the technology to enable carriers to feed information into a central hub and a National Border Targeting Centre which opened earlier this year and where the information is checked against watchlists and reviewed by the police and border force officers.

Going forward, the e-Borders programme remains a priority. The termination of this contract does not change this. The Government are determined to get value-for-money from its major contracts, and requires the highest standard of performance to be delivered.

e-Borders is part of a wider activity with our partners to check passengers against watchlists before they travel. Security and immigration checks carried out by the UK Border Agency will continue as normal before individuals travel and at the UK border.

The Government are committed to enhancing e-Borders capabilities and to ensuring that we can progress this project in a timely and cost-effective way. Those parts of the e-Borders programme that have already been delivered should continue to run as normal.

We need to know who is coming to the country and who has left so that we are able to stop those who are not allowed to come here. A working e-Borders programme will help us perform all those vital tasks. That is why we have taken this decision, and why we will ensure that the benefits of e-Borders are delivered through a programme that meets its targets, so that everyone in this country is made safer.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

St Helena (Access)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): The Government recognise their special responsibilities and international obligations towards their overseas territories, and are committed to supporting their economic development. We want to provide a permanent, economically viable solution to the problem of access to St Helena. This is in the long-term interest of both the British taxpayer and the citizens of this overseas territory.

St Helena is one of the most remote inhabited islands in the world and is currently accessible only by sea. In 2005, the previous Government committed themselves to building an airport. They put the project out to tender in 2007. In October 2008, they appointed a preferred bidder and commenced contract negotiations. Two months later they "paused" the project. In 2009 the Government set up a further consultation on "whether an airport is the most appropriate option for access to St Helena in the current economic climate".

Should an airport not be built, HMG would have to spend an estimated £64 million on a new ship, because the current vessel is reaching the end of its economic life, and continue to subsidise its operating costs. St Helena would stand little chance of becoming financially independent, meaning it would permanently rely on substantial annual budgetary and other support from HMG (currently in excess of £20 million every year). A new ship would provide a costly service but not a solution to St Helena's stagnation and perpetual dependence on UK-aid support.

It also appears that airport cost reductions can be achieved by reducing the length of the runway run-on using an Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS). This shorter run-on still allows planes to stop safely after reaching the end of the runway itself. This is a technological advance in air safety, which is already in use in airports around the world but which has yet to be approved by Air Safety Support International, the regulator for the UK overseas territories.

Since taking office, the Government have reviewed the economic costs and benefits of a new ship compared to the construction of an airport. Further independent analysis has concluded that, provided certain conditions are met, the best long-term solution from an economic and financial perspective for both HMG and St Helena is to construct an airport. This would allow us over time to eliminate the cost to HMG of servicing access to the island, to create the potential for St Helena to develop a self-sustaining economy (hence, eliminating the need for budgetary support from HMG) and to provide a permanent solution to economic isolation.

I have therefore reached the provisional conclusion, following careful discussion with Her Majesty's Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, that the additional short-term costs of constructing an airport are outweighed by the long-term benefits. So, I believe that this option is likely to represent the best value-for-money for the British taxpayer.

We would therefore be willing to finance an airport for St Helena on condition that:

an acceptable contract price is achieved;

the risk of cost and time overruns after the award of the contract is addressed;

the airport design using EMAS is approved by Air Safety Support International: and

the St Helena Government undertake to implement the reforms needed to open the island's economy to inward investment and increased tourism.

We will make a further announcement once we are satisfied that the above conditions can be met.

DFID Resource Accounts and Annual Report

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): The 2009-10 resource accounts and annual report for the Department for International Development have been laid before Parliament today.

The annual report covers DFID's activities in 2009-10 in line with the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006.

The Reports will be available online on DFID's website (www.dfid.gov.uk).

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants—Universal Jurisdiction

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The United Kingdom has asserted universal jurisdiction over war crimes under the Geneva Conventions Act, and over a few other offences of exceptional gravity. because of our international obligations and our commitment to ensuring that there is no impunity for those accused of such crimes. That commitment is unwavering.

It is important, however, that universal jurisdiction cases should be proceeded with in this country only on the basis of solid evidence that is likely to lead to a successful prosecution—otherwise there is a risk of damaging our ability to help in conflict resolution or to pursue a coherent foreign policy. It is unsatisfactory that, as things stand, an arrest warrant for these grave offences can be issued on the application of a private prosecutor on the basis of evidence that would be insufficient to sustain a prosecution.

The Government have concluded, after careful consideration, that it would be appropriate to require the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions before an arrest warrant can be issued to a private prosecutor in respect of an offence of universal jurisdiction. This would interfere as little as possible with the existing rights of private prosecutors, and would not prevent them from initiating prosecutions for these offences where the evidence justified that course.

A suitable legislative amendment will be brought before Parliament at the first opportunity.

Service Personnel (Inquests)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I think it right that we continue the previous Government's practice of issuing quarterly statements to the House detailing inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. There was, however, no written ministerial statement in late April because of the general election. This is the first of these statements that we have made.

Like our predecessors, we too cannot express enough how highly we regard all of our service personnel who are or have been involved in the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We send our deepest condolences to the families of those personnel who have been killed serving their country. It is also with particular sadness that we note that, since the previous Government gave their last statement on 2 February, 71 further servicemen and women have died.

Today we are announcing the current status of inquests conducted by the Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. This statement gives the position at 16 July.

The tables which accompany this statement include information about those cases which involve a board of inquiry or a service inquiry. It is encouraging to see that steps are being taken to reduce the average period of time from the date of death to the inquest. We very much hope that this trend will continue, as it greatly benefits the bereaved families primarily, but also other parties to the inquests. In some cases a coroner may choose not to hold their inquest until the completion of a service inquiry, or it may be delayed for other logistical reasons. It is important that the coroner has all possible information about the death, and that all witnesses are able to attend the hearing.

CURRENT STATUS OF INQUESTS

Since the last statement a further 71 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel in operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. This makes a total of 325 inquests held into deaths of service personnel in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan since June 2006, when additional resources were first provided to the Oxfordshire coroner.

Since operations commenced in 2001 there have been a total of 376 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including six service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

We would like to express our gratitude for the efforts of all of the coroners who are involved in conducting these inquests. We also wish to state that we are committed to continuing the Government's support for these coroners.

OPEN INQUESTS

i. Pre-31 March 2007 Fatalities

There are currently no outstanding pre-March 31 2007 inquests in the Oxfordshire coroner's district.

ii. Post-1 April 2007 Fatalities

Since 1 April 2007 fatalities have been repatriated via RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire and since October 2007 additional resources were provided by the previous Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests did not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner's district. The coroner, David Ridley, transfers inquests for service personnel to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible.

There are, at present, 101 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007 (56 involving deaths in the last six months).

Of these, Mr Ridley has retained 34 inquests, while 67 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next-of-kin. At 16 July two recent fatalities had been repatriated but the inquests were yet to be opened. Six recent fatalities awaited repatriation and inquest opening. Hearing dates have been set in 13 cases.

iii. Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain 12 inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries. Hearing dates have been set in two cases.

We shall keep the House informed about progress with the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Library of the House which outline the status of all cases and the date of death in each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Office for Judicial Complaints (Annual Report)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): With the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice, I will today publish the fourth annual report of the Office for Judicial Complaints (OJC). The OJC provides support to the Lord Chief Justice and myself in our joint responsibility for the system of judicial complaints and discipline.

I welcome the publication of this report which provides details of the work undertaken by the OJC over the last year and the complaints dealt with.

The past year has seen significant change within the OJC with the appointment of Sheridan Greenland OBE as the new Head of the Office for Judicial Complaints in August 2009. I am pleased to see that, under new leadership, the OJC continues to build upon the firm foundation set down during the previous three years.

I note the progress which has been made in identifying efficiency and performance improvements through a "LEAN" review process and look forward to further improvements as the same principles are applied more widely throughout the OJC. I am similarly pleased to record the successful launch of the OJC's online complaint service, providing greater accessibility and access to the OJC's services to members of the public.

Copies of the report are available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies of the report are also available on the internet at:

http://www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk/publications.htm.

TRANSPORT

Department for Transport Resource Accounts

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I have today published my Department's resource accounts for 2009-10. Copies have been laid before Parliament and placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Appended to the resource accounts, as per guidance issued by HM Treasury, are performance data tables.

Rail Franchising

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): In a written statement of 17 June, I informed the House that the Department for Transport would shortly begin a consultation exercise on the future of rail franchising policy. That consultation has been published today.

The reforms presented for consultation include longer more flexible franchises aimed at incentivising private sector investment in the railways to benefit passengers. The consultation will provide industry partners, local authorities, passengers and other groups with the opportunity to comment on the Government's approach to rail franchising. In particular, we would welcome responses on the best way to ensure that the proposed reforms improve the efficiency and value for money of rail franchises, for both taxpayers and fare payers.

The consultation will remain open until Monday 18 October 2010. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 26 July 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Consultation on Business Finance Issues

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): Coming into the recovery, the Government's focus is on creating the conditions for balanced and sustainable growth in the private sector. In order that UK business can finance this growth, we are seeking to address the challenges and risks faced by businesses in ensuring that they can access the finance they require.

At the heart of these challenges is ensuring stable financial conditions for business. The coalition Government have taken decisive action to tackle the fiscal deficit, which is the first priority for restoring business confidence. But businesses also need sustainable and secure sources of finance for investment. Unless the financial system is reformed it may fail to deliver the finance that is vital to this task.

Today, I am publishing a Command Paper, jointly written with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor. This discussion document sets out lessons learnt from the past and some of the challenges ahead. We would like to encourage businesses, investors and lenders to participate in this consultation as it will inform the Government's future response to the issues raised.

In "Financing a private sector recovery", we state that the Government would like more diverse sources of finance available. The paper explores a broad range of options, including trade finance, greater application of the mutual model, more use of equity and a responsible return to securitisation. The paper also addresses the success of existing Government schemes, such as the enterprise finance guarantee, and whether they should be improved or extended.

But it is emphasised that industry and market-led solutions are the preferred response to any market failures. Only where appropriate will Government assist in providing solutions, in conjunction with business.

The paper is being published today on BIS's website: www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance. The deadline for responses is 20 September 2010.

Regional Development Agencies (Board Members)

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): I would like to announce my decision to offer continued terms to 19 board members whose first term of appointment finishes on the 13 December 2010. I have also decided, following approval from the Commissioner for Public Appointments, to offer extensions to a further 21 board members who are finishing their second or third term in office. The names of the board member are:

RDA	*Board Member*	*Position Serving*	*Term Completed*
Advantage West Midlands			
	Angela Maxwell OBE	Business	First term
	Jas Bains	Voluntary/Community	First term
	Sue Prince OBE	Business	Second term
	Gerard Coyne	Trade Union	Second term
	Diane Rayner	Local Authority	Second term
East of England Development Agency			
	Stuart Evans	Business	First term
	Paul Burall	Local Authority	Second term
	Sheila Childerhouse	Voluntary/Community	Second term
	Karen Livingstone	Trade Union	Second term*
	Marco Cereste	Local Authority	Third term[1]
East Midlands Development Agency			
	Michael Seals MBE	Business	First term
	Ann Cartwright	Voluntary/Community	First term
	Steve Brown	Business	Second term
	Gary Hunt	Local Authority	Second term
	Jonathan Collins	Local Authority	Second term*
	Geoffrey Stevens	Local Authority/rural	Second term
	Prof Philip Tasker	Education further/higher	Second term
Northwest Regional Development Agency			
	Anthony McDermott MBE	Local Authority	First term
	Susan Williams	Local Authority	First term
	Prof John Brooks	Education further/higher	First term
	Peter Allen MBE	Business/rural	First term
	Peter Hensman	Business	Second term**
	Joe Dwek CBE	Business	Second term***
	John Merry CBE	Local Authority	Second term
One North East			
	Graham Thrower	Business	First term
	Prof Christopher Higgins	Education further/higher	First term
	Gill Hale	Trade Union	First term
	Ian Dormer	Business	First term
	Alison Thain OBE	Business	Second term
	Ian Brown	Business/rural	Second term
	Bob Symonds	Local Authority	Second term

RDA	*Board Member*	*Position Serving*	*Term Completed*
South East England Development Agency			
	Keith Riley	Business	First term
	Dr Dolores Byrne OBE	Business	First term
	Imtiaz Farookhi	Business	Second term
Southwest Regional Development Agency			
	Brian Robinson	Local Authority	First term
	Ellen Winser	Business	First term
	Nick Buckland OBE	Business	Third term[1]
Yorkshire Forward			
	Mark Lovell	Business	First term
	Mark Kirk	Local Authority	First term
	Linda Pollard OBE JP DL	Business	Second term

*Extension granted for a year from December 2009.

**Extension already granted for six months until June 2011.

***Extension granted for a year from December 2009.

[1] The Commissioner has granted extended terms up until December 2011 when the board member will have served the maximum 10 years in office.

The coalition Government have made the decision to support the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships to replace RDAs. Final closure of RDAs is likely to be completed by 31 March 2012 following legislation. On that basis the decision was made not to continue with any further board member recruitment. The continued terms for board members are necessary to ensure; i) that the RDA chairs are able effectively to manage their board membership up until closure, and; ii) that membership does not fall below the minimum requirement of eight, as stated in the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998. The board members have a valuable role to play in helping manage the abolition of the RDAs and the transition to the new arrangements, in which their skills and experience will continue to be a valuable asset.

I have placed biographies of the board members in the Libraries of both Houses. I can confirm that the continued terms have been made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments code of practice.

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 13 July 2010. The following items were discussed:

EU financial supervision

ECOFIN agreed a revised position on the Commission's proposals to establish a European Systemic Risk Board and three new European Supervisory Authorities. The Council:

> Reaffirmed its December 2009 agreement that supervision should remain national, that the proposed EU roles in mediation and crisis should be subject to safeguards to protect member states fiscal responsibilities, and that EU direct powers over firms should not override national supervisors' discretionary decisions.
>
> Rejected demands by the European Parliament (EP) for an EU resolution fund and EU supervision of cross-border firms.
>
> Reaffirmed that the European Banking Authority will be based in London.
>
> Sought to limit and tie down the role suggested by the EP for the European Supervisory Authorities in banning products. As a result, the Council agreed that such powers would:
>
> be specifically agreed by Council and EP in legislative proposals;
>
> be subject to a sunset to require the authority to regularly reaffirm its decision;
>
> include an appeal procedure requiring a qualified-majority vote to support a ban if a member state requests it.

The presidency will now take forward negotiations on the basis of the new mandate, and will seek to find agreement ahead of the September EP plenary vote. The UK supports this new ECOFIN consensus, and looks forward to a swift agreement with the EP and the establishment of the bodies by January 2011.

Programme of the Belgian Presidency

The Belgian presidency presented the ECOFIN work programme for the next six months.

Follow up to the European Council:

Commission communication on "Reinforcing economic policy co-ordination"

The Commission presented its paper as a contribution to the ongoing work on economic governance. The UK believes the paper provides helpful input and agrees that robust national frameworks are an important part of the solution—independence of national statistical and fiscal authorities is key, as shown by the creation of the Office for Budget Responsibility. Further work will continue by the European Commission, with ECOFIN returning to this issue in September.

Broad Economic Policy Guidelines

Following initial agreement at ECOFIN and the European Council in June, the broad economic policy guidelines (BEPGs) were formally adopted. The Government are content with the text, following additional language at the June European Council making clear that country-specific recommendations under the BEPGs

> "shall be fully in line with relevant treaty provisions and EU rules and shall not alter member states' competences, for example in areas such as education".

Stability and Growth Pact

The Council adopted a raft of decisions on excessive deficits including launching excessive deficit procedures for Bulgaria, Denmark, Cyprus and Finland. In addition, the Council noted that since December 2009, effective action has been taken by Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia. Following the emergency Budget on 22 June, ECOFIN agreed that the UK is also now taking effective action to further increase the size of fiscal consolidation in 2010-11 and significantly strengthen the planned pace of deficit reduction over the medium-term.

Adoption of the euro by Estonia

Following discussions at the June ECOFIN and European Council, euro-area member states voted to adopt regulations which confirm the introduction of the euro in Estonia on 1 January 2011.

AOB: Report on EMU public finances

The annual report on public finances in the European Monetary Union was presented to Ministers. The report covers consolidation strategies and the link between macroeconomic imbalances and fiscal policy.

Financial Regulation

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government have today published a consultation document outlining the coalition Government's proposals for reforming the framework of financial regulation in the UK. This builds on the statement I made in the House on 17 June 2010.

"A new approach to financial regulation: judgment, focus and stability" sets out in more detail plans to overhaul the UK's financial regulatory framework, including providing the Bank of England with control of macro-prudential regulation and oversight of micro-prudential regulation.

The UK banking system is emerging from the most serious financial crisis in over a hundred years. Despite making three authorities—the Bank of England (the Bank), the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Treasury—collectively responsible for financial stability, the UK's "tripartite" system failed in a number of important ways. For example, it failed to identify the problems that were building up in the financial system; to take steps to mitigate them before they led to significant instability in financial markets; and to deal adequately with the crisis when it did break.

The document describes the future arrangements for the framework of financial regulation that will address these failings head on. These include proposals to create an independent Financial Policy Committee in the Bank of England and a new prudential regulation authority as a subsidiary of the Bank. In addition to the proposed changes to macro and micro prudential regulation, the consultation document sets out in more detail plans to create a dedicated consumer protection and markets authority (CPMA), with a primary statutory responsibility to promote confidence in financial services and markets.

The document also sets out details of proposals for approaching future financial crises. One of the failings of the UK system currently is the fact that no single institution has the responsibility, authority or powers to monitor the system as a whole, identify potentially destabilising trends and vulnerabilities, and respond to them with concerted action. The document outlines how the Government intend to rectify this.

The document presents a range of issues and questions for consultation. The Government will, on the basis of this consultation and continuing policy development, present more detailed proposals—including draft legislation—for further consultation early in 2011.

The Government intend to introduce legislation to implement their proposals in mid-2011, and in my statement to this House on 17 June 2010 I committed to ensuring the passage of the necessary primary legislation within two years.

A copy of "A new approach to financial regulation: judgment, focus and stability" has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and published on the HM Treasury website.

G20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): As part of the next phase of the G20 framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, HM Treasury has today submitted a new national template to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), setting out its national policy frameworks, programmes and projections for the medium term.

This is in accordance with the updated mutual assessment process agreed by G20 leaders at the Toronto summit, in which G20 countries will provide information on any policy revisions made since the beginning of the year and the IMF will update its analysis of how these national and regional policy frameworks fit together.

Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Counter-Terrorist Asset-Freezing Regime

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government take the threat of terrorism seriously. However, measures taken to counter the threat of terrorist activity must be done in a fair and proportionate way.

The previous Government undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's counter-terrorism asset-freezing regime. We believe this is essential to ensure transparency and accountability of the regime and we will continue to report to Parliament each quarter. There is a clause to this effect in the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc Bill.

This report covers the period April to June 2010[1]

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter April to June 2010, the Treasury gave no new directions under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009.

During this quarter, the EU added five people to EC Regulation 881/2002, implementing the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime established under UNSCR 1267.

As of 30 June 2010, a total of 202 accounts containing just under £360,000[2] of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK.

Reviews under the Terrorism Orders

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review and completed nine reviews in this quarter. From these nine reviews, six persons had their designations revoked.

Licensing

Maintaining an effective licensing system is important to ensure the overall proportionality and fairness of the asset-freezing regime, whether the individuals concerned are subject to an asset-freeze in accordance with a UN or EC listing, or domestic terrorism legislation. A licensing framework is put in place for each individual on a case-by-case basis. The key objective of the licensing system is to strike an appropriate balance between minimising the risk of diversion of funds to terrorism and meeting the human rights and humanitarian needs of affected individuals and their families. Licences contain certain appropriate controls to protect against the risk of the diversion of funds for terrorist finance.

Thirteen licences were issued this quarter in relation to eight persons subject to an asset-freeze under the al-Qaeda and Taliban and domestic terrorism regimes.

In addition, five general licences were issued. General licences cover both the al-Qaeda and domestic terrorism regimes, and are important in ensuring an effective and proportionate licensing regime by removing the need for individual licence applications in specific areas. These general licences are accessible on the Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_sanctions_general_licences.htm

Proceedings

The previous Government committed to reporting on proceedings taken for any offences under the asset-freezing regime. We agree that it is important to continue to report on proceedings for accountability and transparency, and we will therefore continue to do so.

In the quarter April to June 2010, no proceedings were taken for breaches of the prohibitions of the Terrorism Orders or the Al-Qaida and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations.

Developments

The Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc Bill: The Government have introduced and published new terrorist asset-freezing legislation. This was reported in the previous written ministerial statement that I laid on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 36WS.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure reflects account balances at time of freezing and includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 21/07/10. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Government have today finalised an agreement to lend up to the equivalent of $2 billion (approximately £1.3 billion) in special drawing rights to the International Monetary Fund's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust. Copies of the agreement have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Service College (Key Performance Indicators 2010-11

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): The following key performance indicators have been agreed for the Fire Service College as part of the 2010-11 business planning round and performance against them will be reported in the college's annual report and accounts:

> Achieve an operating profit before interest.
>
> Achieve 90% UK Fire and Rescue Service delegate satisfaction for achievement of learning objectives.
>
> Achieve 75% UK Fire and Rescue Service delegate satisfaction for learning experience.
>
> Achieve a reduction in fixed staff costs compared to the Financial Year 2009-10.
>
> Achieve a net reduction in staff sick absence days compared to the financial year 2009-10.

These indicators reflect the fundamental purpose of the Fire Service College, which is to deliver cost effective safety critical operational, leadership and command training, and professional development to the UK Fire and Rescue Service by applying consistent national standards, in order to enhance Fire and Rescue Service capability, operational effectiveness and safety.

Removing Planning Barriers (Schools)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): Today I am underlining our commitment to supporting the creation of new free schools through the planning system.

The new Government are committed to decentralising power, including over planning. Localism should involve both devolving power down to local councils, and going further by devolving power and opportunity down to community groups, neighbourhoods and individual citizens. Our free schools policy is an example of localism and the big society in action—by empowering individuals to come together to improve the educational choices for their children in their local community.

The Secretary of State for Education outlined his proposals for new free schools on 18 June. Teachers, parents and charities will have much greater freedom to set up schools which respond to local needs. We want to encourage competition and innovation, to address the imbalance of opportunity in education and enable schools to develop their own identity. Our approach will increase choice and drive up standards across the country and provide a real opportunity to transform the lives of disadvantaged children.

We know that many individuals and organisations are passionate about improving standards in education, and they will want to take advantage of the new freedoms. But we do not want to squander the opportunities that they represent, for lack of suitable school premises. Neither do we want to strangle proposals with red tape, by putting them through a lengthy and ponderous planning process. So we want to make it easier for promoters of schools to build new premises, or find and if necessary adapt buildings suitable for the needs of a school.

We are already giving a strong message to local planning authorities that they must be more responsive to the needs of their own area. We are empowering them to take more responsibility for planning decision-making, by removing centralised targets and streamlining national planning policy. We are also encouraging them to take a more proactive and positive, collaborative approach to development at the pre-application stage. The best authorities work with applicants to identify the key issues and how they might be resolved, before the planning application is submitted. In this way, they have the opportunity to work with development promoters, to bring about imaginative, but practical solutions, which will benefit their local community. This is what we would like to see happening with new free schools.

It is important, however, for local planning authorities to have a clear policy framework for the decisions they take locally. Through this statement, therefore, I wish to underline that, in determining planning applications, local authorities should:

- attach very significant weight to the desirability of establishing new schools and to enabling local people to do so;
- adopt a positive and constructive approach towards applications to create new schools, and seek to mitigate any negative impacts of development through the use of planning conditions or planning obligations, as appropriate; and
- only refuse planning permission for a new school if the adverse planning impacts on the local area outweigh the desirability of establishing a school in that area.

Local planning authorities and the Planning Inspectorate should take this statement into account as a material consideration when determining planning applications, where it is relevant to do so.

If a local authority nevertheless refuses permission on this basis, the Government will ask the Planning Inspectorate to deal swiftly with any appeal that is lodged.

We shall shortly be consulting on changes to the use classes order to reduce unnecessary regulation and make it easier for buildings currently in other uses to be converted to schools.

These changes to the planning system will allow school promoters to be confident about moving their proposals forward quickly. We expect them to work collaboratively with local authorities to take advantage of the opportunities to benefit local communities, while ensuring sustainable solutions.

This statement sets out our policy approach to support the establishment of new schools until the proposed new national planning framework is in place.

This statement applies to England only.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Arm's Length Bodies

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): DCMS is responsible for a number of sectors which people are passionate about. From sports through to television, and live music through to museums, DCMS and its public bodies make a real difference to the quality of people's lives.

Despite being one of the smaller Government Departments, we are responsible for a network of more than 50 public bodies.

In my first few months as Secretary of State I have made it my priority to examine our network of public bodies critically with the aim of improving accountability, transparency and value for money.

In line with the commitments set out in the coalition document, I have been applying the Government's agreed tests to each of our bodies: does it perform a technical function?; Does it need to be politically impartial?; And does it act independently to establish facts?

This forms part of the work being undertaken across Government, and led by the Cabinet Office, to restore proper accountability for activities funded by public money. Public bodies which do not meet one of the three tests outlined will be bought back into Departments or devolved if their function is necessary or abolished if not. This work will reduce the number of public bodies, increase the transparency and accountability of the remaining few, and ensure more effective delivery of public services.

As a result of this review, I am today announcing my intention to make a number of changes. This will include:

- the abolition of the UK Film Council;
- the abolition of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council;
- the merger of UK Sport and Sport England;
- the merger of the National Lottery Commission and Gambling Commission[1];
- the abolition of the Advisory Council on Libraries and the wind up of the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel.
- the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites and the declassification of the Advisory Committee on National Historic Ships; and
- declassifying the Theatres Trust so it can act as an independent statutory advisory body.

Further work will be done in discussion with the bodies concerned and other interested parties over the summer to finalise the details and timing of these proposals.

Where bodies are to be abolished we will look to transfer key functions to other existing bodies so as to continue to support our sectors and preserve the necessary expertise. In the case of the Film Council, for example, this will include its current responsibilities for the distribution of lottery funding for films, which will be maintained, as well as support for the certification process which is critical to the film tax relief, which will also be maintained. We will maintain a strong relationship with the British Film Institute.

We will also continue to explore further opportunities to improve the accountability and coherence of our public bodies landscape.

We are looking closely at our responsibility for Heritage and the Built Environment and so are currently considering the role and remit of English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Additionally, we are considering the role of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and exploring opportunities to consolidate its functions. We will also be discussing with the Church of England the merits of declassifying the Churches Conservation Trust so it has greater operational freedom.

In addition, we have reviewed the status of the two public bodies set up to help us deliver a successful games in 2012—the Olympic Delivery Authority and the Olympic Lottery Distributor—and have concluded there is no need to change our existing plans to wind up these organisations following the games.

The Olympic games provide a huge opportunity to boost inbound and domestic tourism and we continue to explore the best way of realising our ambitious goals in this area. As part of this we are considering the status, role and functions of Visit England and Visit Britain. A final decision will be made on this in the autumn as part of the spending review.

Any necessary legislative changes will be made through the Cabinet Office Public Bodies Bill, which is due to be introduced in the autumn.

Where proposed changes have implications for the devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland we will work closely with them to finalise proposals.

[1] Subject to a business case.

DEFENCE

Exercise Joint Warrior 4-15 October 2010

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): Joint Warrior is a bi-annual tri-service major exercise with invited NATO and allied nations and usually takes place over a two-week period in the spring and autumn. Its aim is to provide high-quality joint collective training and pre-deployment training in a multi-threat environment for participating units and their staffs. Each unit will operate from various bases in the UK and abroad but specifically there is an increase in air and land activity across Wales, Scotland and the border regions of England, as well as an increase in maritime activity in the north and west of Scotland.

These exercises are routine and I therefore wish to update the House that it is my intention to continue to write only to individual Members who raise specific concerns.

Joint Warrior is a complex exercise which requires careful planning and co-ordination to minimise the possibility of environmental damage. I would like to reassure the House that in order to achieve this, the exercise planning teams will continue to work closely with local authorities, various national rural agencies, landowners and other interested parties.

Collective training is a key priority for defence. It is a vital component in the UK armed forces ability to be able to generate forces at the right time, with the right skills and in the right numbers and Joint Warrior has the additional benefit which also gives UK forces the ability to train and operate with other coalition countries. The next exercise, Joint Warrior 102, commences on 4 October 2010 and a press release will be issued for public information.

EDUCATION

School Funding

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Today I have launched a consultation on our proposals for school funding in 2011-12, including more detailed proposals for a pupil premium as announced in the document "The Coalition: our programme for government".

A good education is the key to improving young people's life chances so that they go on into adulthood with the skills and confidence for success. This is particularly important for pupils from a deprived background yet it is these pupils that are being let down the most by the school system.

Over the past decade, the gulf in achievement between the rich and the poor has widened, while the attainment gap between fee-paying schools and state schools has doubled. Just two out of 57 countries now have a wider attainment gap between the highest and lowest achieving pupils.

Young children who are in the bottom 20% of attainment in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile are six times more likely to be in the bottom 20% at key stage 1 than their peers. For disadvantaged pupils, a gap opens at KS1 and increases over time. Pupils entitled to free school meals (FSM) are only a third as likely to achieve five good GCSEs as their peers.

These gaps persist through to higher education. A pupil who has been entitled to FSM is less than half as likely to go on to study at university as their peers. In the last year for which we have data, out of a cohort of 600,000 pupils, 80,000 pupils were eligible for free school meals, and of those, just 45 made it to Oxbridge.

Addressing this disparity is a top priority of the coalition Government and it is for this reason that we are implementing a pupil premium, to ensure that extra funding is targeted at those deprived pupils that most need it.

The coalition document specified that this will be:

> "a significant premium for disadvantaged children from outside the schools budget".

The consultation sets out our proposed methodology for allocating the premium, including options on the best deprivation indicator to use. This money will not be ring-fenced at school level as I believe that schools are in the best position to decide how the premium should be used to support their pupils.

We are also using this consultation to set out our proposals for possible additional support for service children, as set out in "The Coalition: our programme for government". Furthermore, I have included proposals for additional support for looked after children, who have consistently low attainment but are often not picked up by deprivation indicators and so would not benefit from the pupil premium.

The consultation document also outlines our intentions for school funding for 2011-12. We will continue with the current methodology for the distribution of school funding to allow for a clear and transparent introduction of the pupil premium, but we also recognise that the funding system could be more reflective of pupil characteristics and so we intend to review the system for funding schools beyond 2011-12.

In addition, from April 2011 we will require all local authorities to implement the early years single funding formula, in order to improve fairness and transparency in the system and to support diversity of provision.

Copies of this publication have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (Regulations Amendment)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker): Today I am announcing that the Government will be amending the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme Regulations. The Government are committed to the current budget and this amendment regulation is intended to ensure the scheme for this year is delivered within the planned resources. The amendment regulation obliges the scheme manager to refuse further new applications at the point when all resources available for any given year have been awarded. The amendment will ensure that the scheme can provide measures for all customers whose applications have been accepted and that it can manage the Warm Front budget effectively in advance of the spending review outcome. The scheme currently operates a control strategy to manage the process between application and installation of measures to ensure that expenditure is kept within the available budget. In the event that the budget becomes fully committed before the end of the financial year, we will ensure that the installation of heating and insulation measures for successful applicants will be fully delivered.

HEALTH

Evidence Check: Homeopathy (Government Response)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): We are today laying before Parliament the Government's response (Cm 7883) to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee report "Evidence Check: Homeopathy", which was published on 22 February 2010.

Complementary and alternative medicine, including homeopathy, have a long tradition, and very vocal proponents and opponents. The Committee's report sets out evidence and opinion on each side, with a strong focus on efficacy as being one of the main criteria by which it would expect national health service decisions to be made.

The Government welcome this report. We remain of the view that the local national health service and clinicians are best placed to make decisions on what treatment is appropriate for their patients. We expect local clinicians to make decisions on what is best for their patients taking account of safety, evidence of clinical and cost-effectiveness (where it exists) and the availability of suitably regulated/qualified practitioners.

We remain committed to providing good quality information available about complementary and alternative treatments so that clinicians and consumers can make informed decisions if they are considering such treatments.

Today's publication is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

NHS White Paper (Supporting Information)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am publishing two further supporting documents to the national health service White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" (Cm 7881) which was published on 12 July.

The first document, "Regulating Healthcare Providers", provides further detail on the principles of the policies set out in the White Paper, and seeks views from the public and external partners on some of the questions arising out of them.

The White Paper set out a vision for a national health service centred around the needs of patients, focusing consistently on improving quality of care. One of the fundamental features of the proposals is to free providers from political interference and to establish a stable, transparent regulatory environment.

"Regulating Healthcare Providers" therefore sets out proposals to free providers from central Government controls and to develop Monitor, the current regulator for foundation trusts, as an independent economic regulator for health and adult social care.

Under our proposals, all remaining NHS trusts will become or be part of a foundation trust, free from the state's operational control and not subject to the Secretary of State's direction. We will create an environment where staff and organisations enjoy greater freedom and clearer incentives to flourish. All providers should be able to compete on a fair playing field, so that they succeed or fail according to the quality of care for patients and the value they offer the taxpayer.

Monitor will be responsible for regulating all providers to promote efficient, financially sustainable service provision. It will operate independently of Government so that providers have confidence in a stable, rules-based system—without the risk of political interference—to make long-term investments in services. Monitor will have powers to license providers of NHS services and core functions to regulate prices for NHS services, where needed, to promote competition, and to support service continuity.

The document seeks views on a number of questions by 11 October.

Today, I am also publishing the report of the Department's review of its arm's-length bodies.

The publication, sets out our proposals for arm's-length bodies in the health and social care sector. These proposals form part of the cross-Government strategy to increase accountability and transparency, and to reduce the number and cost of quangos.

The Government's proposed reforms of the NHS, set out in "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", will establish more autonomous institutions, with greater freedoms, clear duties and transparency in their responsibilities to patients. Power will be devolved to the front-line. Liberating the NHS will fundamentally change the role of the Department and those bodies accountable to it. Changes to the arm's-length body sector must reflect these wider reforms.

There is also an economic imperative for change. The Government have guaranteed that spending on health will increase in real terms in every year of this Parliament and are committed to increasing the proportion of resource available for front-line services, to meet the current financial challenges and the future costs of demographic and technological change. This means that we need to make significant cuts in the costs of health bureaucracy. Over the next four years, the Government will reduce NHS administrative costs by more than 45%, freeing up resources for front-line care.

The review has assessed arm's-length bodies in light of both the current financial challenges and the strategy for the NHS set out in "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS". Only those functions which need to be carried out a national level to support the Department's clear objectives should remain in the sector. Functions that are better delivered by other parts of the system should be devolved to the right level, and organisations that carry out these functions should be abolished. Shifting functions from public bodies back into the Department, or to those who are closer to local needs and are independent of the state, will ensure more direct accountability to local people, Parliament and Ministers.

By ensuring that functions are delivered in the right place, the sector will be streamlined to cut costs and remove duplication and unnecessary burdens on the front line. The review will achieve a significant reduction in the number and cost of public bodies.

The Department will impose tight governance and accountability over the cost and scope of its remaining arm's-length bodies. In future, arm's-length bodies' independence will be exercised within the confines of clear and agreed functions. This is in line with the Government's wider commitment to increase transparency and accountability.

The report details the proposals for each of the Department's bodies. Where changes require primary legislation, these will be enacted through legislation which will be introduced in this Parliament.

Proposals for the General Social Care Council (GSCC), the regulatory body for social workers, are included in the report. My predecessor issued a written ministerial statement on 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 41WS about the publication of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence's (CHRE) report and recommendations on the General Social Care Council (GSCC) function relating to conduct. As part of its response to CHRE's report the previous Administration announced that the GSCC would report on its progress to Ministers at the end of March. This report has now been received and is published today.

While the GSCC has made good progress over preceding months, the reality is that the costs of maintaining an independent regulator for social workers are prohibitive and we therefore propose to transfer the function of regulating social workers to the Health Professions Council, which will accordingly be renamed to reflect its remit.

These publications will be of interest to anyone working in the health and social care sector, to taxpayers, and to people who use health and social care services.

Copies of today's publications have been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

"Regulating Healthcare Providers" can be viewed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_117782

The report of the arm's length bodies review can be viewed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117691

Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): The Government have been considering the case for proceeding with work surrounding the Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator (OHPA).

OHPA was established in law in January of this year, but is not yet operationally active. It was anticipated previously that, from April 2011, it was to take over from the General Medical Council (GMC) the role of adjudicating on fitness to practise matters relating to doctors and, in due course, take on the adjudication role in relation to other health professionals from the remaining health regulators.

Having reviewed the case for OHPA the Government are not persuaded that the creation of another body is necessarily the most appropriate and proportionate way forward in terms of adjudication. We believe that steps can be taken to strengthen and modernise existing systems within the GMC to deliver substantially the same benefits as OHPA. The learning from these steps can then be reviewed and, in due course, applied to the other health regulators. We intend to consult with external partners on this approach shortly.

Healthier Food Mark and Government Buying Standards (Food)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): Over the last two years, the Department has been developing a scheme to improve the nutritional content and sustainability of food served in the public sector, provisionally known as the Healthier Food Mark. The Department has been working across Government on this, and particularly closely with both the Food Standards Agency and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Two pilots, involving over 70 organisations from across the public sector, have been completed.

I am announcing today that the Healthier Food Mark will not be taken forward as a discrete scheme. Instead, the considerable body of evidence and learning from the development of both the nutrition and sustainability criteria will be used to help develop Government buying standards for food procurement in the public sector.

Government buying standards ensure that the public sector procures sustainable goods and services. They are mandatory for central Government Departments and their Executive agencies and are promoted to the wider public sector. The Government buying standards for food will take account of the evidence gained from the pilots of the Healthier Food Mark. DEFRA, working with the Department of Health and other Government Departments, will assess the costs and benefits of a number of options for criteria to be included in the Government buying standards for food to address both nutrition and sustainability. The standards will be consulted on in the autumn.

HOME DEPARTMENT

English Language Requirement (Migrant Spouses)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): On 9 June 2010 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department announced the introduction of a new English language requirement for migrants applying to come to or stay in the UK as a spouse or partner. I wish to inform the House that I am today announcing that this requirement will come into effect on 29 November this year.

Non-European migrants joining a British citizen or non-European national settled in the UK will have to demonstrate a basic command of English as part of the visa application process unless they are a national of a majority English-speaking country. The new language requirement will apply to spouses, civil partners, unmarried partners, same-sex partners, fiancé(e)s and proposed civil partners and will be compulsory for people applying from within the UK, as well as visa applicants overseas.

Migrant spouses and partners will have to demonstrate English language ability at A1 level of the common European framework of reference (speaking and listening), the same level required for skilled workers admitted under the skilled tier of the points-based system. Applicants will be required to provide evidence with their application that they have passed an acceptable English test with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers.

Speaking English promotes integration into British society and broadens opportunities. The new rules will help ensure that migrant spouses are able to participate in British life from the outset and integrate more easily into wider UK society.

We are reviewing English language requirements across the immigration system with a view to tightening the rules further in the future. We will inform the House of our conclusions in due course.

Independent Police Complaints Commission (Annual Report 2009-10)

The Minister for Police (Nick Herbert): I am pleased to announce that today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury are publishing the annual report of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). Copies of the report have been laid before the House and will be available in the Vote Office.

This is the sixth annual report from the IPCC. The report covers the work of the IPCC during 2009-2010 and includes a discrete chapter on the discharge of their responsibilities in respect of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

National DNA Ethics Group (Third Annual Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): I am pleased to announce the publication of the third annual report of the National DNA Database Ethics Group on 29 July 2010. The group was established on 25 July 2007 to provide Ministers with independent ethical advice on the operation and practice of the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

I welcome the consideration given in the report to a number of important issues. The Government share the concerns of the group to ensure the effectiveness of the database and its ethical operation. Merely building as big a database as possible is neither effective nor does it achieve the proper balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the state. I believe that the Government's commitment to introducing the protections of the Scottish model achieves that balance and we are committed to introducing legislation to give effect to that, which I hope will address the key concerns around the database

The report can be viewed from 29 July on the website of the independent Forensic Science Regulator and I am arranging for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

UK Border Agency (Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The "UK Border Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10" has been laid before the House today. Copies will be made available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Judicial Appointments

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I am today announcing my agreement that salaried mental health judges with suitable experience can be selected to chair Restricted Patients Panel cases in the mental health jurisdiction.

These cases involve patients who are detained in hospital by virtue of a restriction order imposed by the Crown Court or by virtue of being transferred from prison by direction of the Secretary of State. The convention, since the implementation of the Mental Health Act 1983, has been that the tribunal judge chairing the panel will always be a circuit judge, a retired circuit judge or a recorder QC. However, the convention came about at a time when there were no full-time judges in the mental health review tribunal and was designed to provide assurance when this power was first transferred from the Secretary of State to the tribunal that an experienced member of the judiciary would be involved in decisions on whether to direct the discharge of a patient.

There are now full-time salaried judges within the jurisdiction with the necessary experience. Circuit judges and recorder QCs will continue to deal with the majority of cases but authorising some of the salaried mental health judges will increase the pool of available chairs to hear the cases.

JUSTICE

Civil Litigation Funding Arrangements

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am today announcing the Government's intention to consult in the autumn on implementing Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations on the reform of funding arrangements in his report, "Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Final Report", published on 14 January 2010. We will be consulting in particular on the reform of conditional fee agreements (CFAs) which should lead to significant costs savings, while still enabling those who need access to justice to obtain it. The Government are therefore taking these proposals forward as a matter of priority.

Lord Justice Jackson was appointed by the then Master of the Rolls in January 2009 to review the rules and principles governing the costs of civil litigation and to make recommendations to promote access to justice at proportionate costs. Sir Rupert's independent and comprehensive report makes a broad range of significant recommendations for reducing costs in the civil justice system in England and Wales. The Government are very grateful to Sir Rupert for his report.

CFAs have played a role in giving access to justice to a range of people. However, high costs under the existing arrangements have now become a serious concern, particularly in clinical negligence cases against the NHS Litigation Authority and in defamation proceedings.

CFAs are a type of "no win no fee" agreements under which lawyers are not paid if they lose a case, but can charge an uplift on top of their base costs—otherwise known as a "success fee"—if they win. Success fees allow lawyers to cover the costs of cases they take on which do not succeed. The success fee can be up to 100% of base costs. After-the-event (ATE) insurance can be taken out by parties to a CFA funded case to protect them against the risk of having to pay their opponent's costs if they lose. Under the current arrangements, success fees and ATE premiums can be recovered from the losing opponent in addition to the base costs.

Sir Rupert recommends significant changes to the current arrangements for CFAs. He proposes abolishing the recoverability of both success fees and ATE insurance premiums; this would require primary legislation. In addition, to assist claimants to meet the cost of the success fees for which they would now be liable, he also recommends an increase of 10% in the level of general damages for personal injury, defamation and other tort claims; and a regime of qualified one-way costs shifting in specified proceedings, including personal injury and defamation.

Our consultation in the autumn would also seek views on other related recommendations on funding arrangements such as whether lawyers should be permitted to enter into damages-based agreements (DBAs) or "contingency fees" in litigation. DBAs are also a type of "no win no fee" agreements which allow a lawyer to take a percentage of the claimant's damages for taking on the claim. DBAs are commonly used in employment tribunals but are not permitted in litigation before the courts. This consultation will take account of any relevant legal aid reform proposals on which we will also be seeking views in the autumn, as previously announced.

Work is also progressing on a number of other areas covered by Sir Rupert's review, but will not form part of the Government's consultation in the autumn. The Government are considering the recommendations on fixed recoverable costs in the fast track, and on referral fees. The Legal Services Board is looking at the issue of referral fees, and their conclusions will inform the Government's position. We will also consider Lord Young of Graffham's conclusions from his "Review of Health and Safety Law and the Compensation Culture". Separately, the Civil Justice Council will consult over the summer on a voluntary code of conduct for third party funders, as recommended by Sir Rupert. Third party funding is an arrangement whereby a party not directly relevant to the proceedings agrees to fund the case in return for a share of the damages awarded.

A range of judiciary-led costs and case management work has been continuing since Sir Rupert's report was published. For example:

more robust costs management is being piloted in defamation cases and in mercantile, technology and construction cases;

a streamlined process and scale costs in the Patents County Court will come into effect in October 2010;

there will be a pilot of assessing disputed costs under £25,000 on the papers rather than at a hearing, in Leeds, Scarborough and York county courts from October 2010; and

a pilot to speed up and reduce the costs of expert evidence (through "concurrent evidence") started in June 2010 in mercantile, technology and construction cases at the Manchester Civil Justice Centre.

A judicial steering group is considering the priorities for further implementation of these recommendations.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Senior Salaries Review Body Report

The Leader of the House of Commons (Sir George Young): On 31 March 2009 my predecessor informed the House, (*Official Report*, column 58WS) that the then Prime Minister had written to the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) on 13 February 2009, inviting it to undertake a fundamental review of parliamentary pension arrangements and to make recommendations. The review was commissioned in response to the Government Actuary's advice that the cost to the Exchequer of accruing benefits was likely to rise above 20% of payroll, the trigger point recommended by the SSRB for such a review.

The SSRB delivered its report to the former Prime Minister earlier this year. Today, the Government are publishing it in full. The report recommends some significant changes to the parliamentary pension arrangements, including:

Changing the basis of pension accrual from final salary to career average;

Increasing the normal pension age from 65 to 68;

Restricting the rate of indexation to the lesser of RPI or 2.5%;

Standardising the accrual rate at 1/60th of salary per year of service and the member contribution rate at 5.5% of pay; and

Benefits already accrued on a final salary basis to be frozen and uprated in line with RPI.

Taken together, the SSRB estimates that this package would reduce the underlying rate of Exchequer contribution to 10.5% of payroll.

The SSRB's report provides helpful and thoughtful advice and a timely input into the current debate on public service pension arrangements. We are grateful to the SSRB for its work and for its willingness to tackle this matter thoroughly and independently.

In taking matters forward, we need to be mindful of developments that have taken place since the SSRB carried out its work:

1. The House has legislated to make the determination of hon. Members' allowances and, from 2012-13 their salary and pensions, independent of the House. The independent determination and administration of these matters through the establishment of the Independent Parliamentary Standard Authority (IPSA), is a crucial part of the process of restoring trust in Parliament.

2. As stated in the coalition agreement, the Government have committed to consulting IPSA on how to move away from the generous final salary pension scheme for Members

of Parliament. IPSA is due to take over responsibility for Members' pension arrangements in 2012-13, as originally recommended by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in November 2009 and provided for in the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010.

3. We have established, under the chairmanship of Lord Hutton, an Independent Public Service Pensions Commission and asked the Commission to make recommendations aimed at ensuring the ongoing affordability, sustainability and fairness of public service pension arrangements.

4. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his Budget statement that, from April 2011, the consumer prices index (CPI) will be used for the price indexation of all benefits, tax credits and public service pensions.

The parliamentary scheme is not included explicitly within the scope of the Hutton Commission's review. However, the Government strongly believe decisions about the parliamentary scheme should be informed by the Commission's recommendations in respect of public service pensions more broadly, and that the SSRB report should be available as evidence to the Commission.

We will therefore await Lord Hutton's recommendations on public service pensions. However, in the specific case of MPs, there is broad party political acceptance that the current final-salary pension terms for Members of Parliament are not sustainable and that reform is needed. We anticipate that the current scheme for MPs will end. We propose to consult IPSA on these matters and to make a further statement after Lord Hutton has published his findings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Billy Wright Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I am pleased to announce that the report of the Billy Wright Inquiry, chaired by Lord MacLean, will be published on 14 September.

In my written statement to this House on 6 July, *Official Report*, column 8WS, I set out the steps that would need to be taken before publication of the Billy Wright Inquiry report. These included a checking process which would enable me to meet the obligations on me in relation to article 2 of the European convention on human rights and national security. I can confirm that this checking process has now been completed and I have received advice from the checking team which confirms that there is nothing in the report which, if published, could breach article 2 of the European convention on human rights by putting the lives or safety of individuals at risk, or put national security at risk. I am therefore satisfied that the report can be published in full and I have advised Lord MacLean of this.

However, given the time needed for the panel to finalise the text and to print the report, it will not be feasible to publish the report to Parliament before summer recess. I have therefore written to Lord MacLean asking him to retain custody of the report over the recess.

The report has not been shown to me or to any other member of the Government, or to any officials except the five members of the team who carried out the checking process. I have not been briefed on the contents of the report; nor have any officials other than those in the checking team.

As with the publication of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry report, I intend to consider giving advance sight to those who were designated as Represented Parties by the Inquiry, to their legal representatives, and to some Members of this House. I intend to discuss this with the Speaker of this House in due course.

Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland (Report 2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is responsible for all aspects of electoral administration in Northern Ireland, including the conduct of all elections and referendums, as well as electoral registration. Section 14 of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962—as amended by section 9 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006—provides that the Chief Electoral Officer must submit an annual report to the Secretary of State. The annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland for 2009-10 has been laid before Parliament today. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

TRANSPORT

Interim Report on Salt Supply and Use

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): For two winters in a row, severe weather has caused significant disruption for transport in this country. The cost to the economy and the disruption to the public has been significant, and there has been a level of dissatisfaction and confusion about the response by Government at both local and national level. This is unacceptable and must be resolved before the next winter season. An independent review of the transport sector's response to last winter was commissioned by my predecessor as Secretary of State and I have asked David Quarmby CBE, who leads it, to continue that work.

The review panel's interim report is being published today; and I am grateful to David Quarmby, Brian Smith, Chris Green, and those who have supported them, for their thoughtful and forthright analysis and recommendations. Copies of the interim report have been placed in the Library of the House.

The interim report concentrates on actions that can be taken by local and national highways authorities, salt suppliers, Government and others to improve resilience of the highways network for the coming winter as well as some longer-term actions. There is much in this report on which all of these groups will want to act urgently to ensure that disruptions to highway networks are minimised in the event of another severe winter.

For my part, I have tasked my officials to take forward, as a matter of priority, the recommendations relating to the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency.

I welcome the recommendation that the Highways Agency should build up a strategic salt supply of last resort for 2010-11, given the particular re-stocking challenges for local highway authorities for this coming winter. I have instructed the Highways Agency immediately to consider how arrangements could be implemented to source a volume of imported salt to establish and manage national strategic stockpiles of up to 250,000 tonnes.

In taking action to create strategic salt reserves for the 2010-11 winter season, the Highways Agency will clearly need to take account of the constraints imposed by the availability of salt from overseas and immediate storage facilities. It is important, as the review makes clear, that local highway authorities do not treat the possibility of such a supply as absolving them from the need to make appropriate provision for their highway networks. I urge local highway authorities to take forward the recommendations that relate to them.

The experience of last winter has shown that adopting standards and methods which reduce the utilisation of salt without compromising effectiveness will both reduce vulnerability to salt supply problems and reduce the cost to the local highway authority. It is therefore vital that authorities share best practice across the sector and my Department will discuss with the UK Roads Liaison Group how best we can support this aim for this winter and in the longer term.

Although highway authorities have a duty, as far as practicable, to keep their highways clear of snow and ice, it was clear from last winter that many members of the public were keen to show community spirit in clearing the footways outside their property. It was equally clear, however, that many were uncertain of their rights and liabilities if they were to act in this way. The interim report recommends (as does a recent report by the Local Government Association) that the Department for Transport should produce a brief guide to help the public understand this area of the law. I have tasked my officials to produce this by the end of October, not in the spirit of laying down what people should or should not do, but in the spirit of empowering those who wish to act in a neighbourly way.

The review panel's work is not at an end. As well as undertaking further analysis to support longer-term actions to improve resilience in salt supply, they are also turning their attention to other transport modes. I look forward to receiving their final report, which they intend to publish in the autumn, in due course.

High Speed 2 (Exceptional Hardship Scheme)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): The Government are committed to the establishment of a high-speed rail network as part of their programme of measures to create a low carbon economy. However, in developing plans for a new high-speed line, both I and my predecessor as Secretary of State for Transport have been mindful of their potential impact on those who live on or close to the proposed line of route.

It was for this reason that the previous Government launched a consultation on a potential exceptional hardship scheme to provide assistance for those who have been most severely and immediately affected by the preferred route option for a new line between London and the west midlands set out in the recent report by HS2 Ltd. This consultation closed on 17 June. Around 4,500 responses were received. This statement sets out my response.

It is clear from the responses to the consultation that there is overwhelming support for a scheme to be introduced to provide assistance for those most severely affected by HS2 Ltd's proposed line. I can therefore confirm that an exceptional hardship scheme will be introduced, and that it will be open to applications from Friday 20 August.

The introduction of the scheme recognises the unique nature of the proposed line, which is only the second high-speed rail project to be considered in the UK and which differs significantly from its predecessor in terms of its design, operation and potential market. It should therefore not be taken as setting any precedent for future infrastructure schemes.

Respondents to the consultation also made many suggestions as to how the terms of the scheme might be altered. I have considered these and have made the following changes from the scheme put forward for consultation. First, the scheme will be widened to include owner-occupiers of agricultural units and commercial properties with an annual rateable value not exceeding £34,800; this brings it in line with the blight provisions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Secondly, the scheme will also be able to cover properties recently inherited following a bereavement and repossessed properties that the original owner urgently requires the bank or other lender to sell to realise some value.

A number of respondents asked for the scheme to be extended to properties over tunnelled sections of the proposed line of route. It is my view, however, that any blighting effects over tunnels are likely to be limited, and this is reinforced by the additional information note on the effects of tunnelling which HS2 Ltd has published on its website today. However, I accept that there is a need to make special provision in relation to properties close to the proposed entrances and exits of tunnels. I have therefore decided to extend the scheme to cover these properties.

Finally, I have decided that the panel which makes recommendations to me on applications to the scheme should have a majority of independent members, although this will not be the case for the shadow panel announced in my written ministerial statement of 27 May 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

In other respects, the scheme will operate as set out in the consultation document. In particular, the scheme will apply only to properties on or in the vicinity of HS2 Ltd's route option 3. HS2 Ltd's report makes a clear recommendation and it is therefore my view that assistance of this kind should be focused on this route, where the blight impacts will be most severe. It is also my conclusion that, to minimise the risk of blight spreading as a result of a scheme of this kind, it should be limited to those who have a pressing need to sell and who would otherwise experience exceptional hardship.

A large proportion of consultation responses also raised issues in relation to longer-term provision to address blight. If a decision is taken following public consultation to proceed with a new high-speed line and to safeguard the route that it would follow, statutory blight arrangements would come into force covering those properties which would have to be acquired in order to build or operate the new line. However, many respondents suggested that additional provision would be needed to cover those properties which would not have to be acquired but which might still be seriously affected by the construction or operation of the line. Respondents also made a number of proposals for how such provision might be structured. I am aware that provision of this kind has been made in respect of a number of previous schemes in both the public and private sectors.

I am mindful of the importance of appropriate longer-term arrangements to assist those who would be most seriously affected by a new line. I agree that some additional provision over and above the statutory blight regime will be needed to achieve this, and it is therefore my intention that this should be put in place, if and when a decision is taken to safeguard a route.

The specific issues raised in response to the consultation, particularly in respect of the different models for operating such arrangements, are complex and require detailed consideration. I have therefore asked my officials to provide me with further advice on options for the terms and conditions of such additional provision and how it should operate. I will report to Parliament on my proposed way forward in the light of the spending review outcome and before public consultation on the Government's strategy for high-speed rail and the route of any new high speed line.

I have placed copies of the analysis of responses to the consultation and a list of frequently asked questions about the scheme in the Libraries of both Houses.

Marine Aids to Navigation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): Following my request for comments on the report by Atkins consultants entitled "Assessment of the provision of marine aids to navigation around the United Kingdom and Ireland" in June 2010 (10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS), I have received replies from 18 organisations and individuals. I wish now to inform the House of the steps the Government intend to take to ensure the continuing delivery of a high-quality aids to navigation service to ensure the safety of all of those using our seas, which also minimises the burdens on those paying light dues.

The Atkins report makes some 52 recommendations covering technical matters, corporate governance, efficiencies and synergies, light dues charges, the general lighthouse fund and Anglo-Irish issues. Key recommendations include:

creating a general lighthouse authority joint strategic board to drive efficiencies;

using an annual target reduction calculator (RPI - x%) for GLA running costs;

developing a timetable with the Irish Government on the financing of the Commissioners of Irish Lights, setting out an incentivised financial model which retains the all-Ireland body while allowing its costs within the Republic of Ireland to be covered wholly from Irish sources; and

changing the structure and scope of light dues.

In the light of the responses received, the Government have decided to endorse the formation of the joint strategic board with the clear objective of co-ordinating and directing work between the three general lighthouse authorities to achieve maximum efficiencies and improvements in the delivery of aids to navigation. To take the work of the joint strategic board forward as quickly as possible I have asked Chris Bourne, a non-executive director of Trinity House, to act as chair of the board. In his role as chair of the joint strategic board Mr Bourne will take an independent and impartial view of the issues, and will report to me on the board's achievements. His extensive shipping background and knowledge of the work of the general lighthouse authorities make him an excellent choice for this role. In the longer term, the Government will look at the appointment of a chair for the joint strategic board from outside the three general lighthouse authorities.

The Government have also decided that it is right, particularly in current economic circumstances, to ask the general lighthouse authorities to deliver reductions in their running costs below the level of inflation and welcome the commitment by the general lighthouse authorities to delivering this challenge. The precise target will be agreed with the general lighthouse authorities alongside the development of their corporate plans and budgets for 2011 to 2014 that are submitted to me for consideration in the autumn.

In this difficult economic period the Government also wish to provide long term stability and reassurance, both for light dues payers in the level of charges they face and for the general lighthouse authorities so they can plan effectively with budgetary stability. The responses received to my request for comments on the Atkins recommendations suggest that there is little appetite to make major changes to the structure and scope of light dues payable by ships visiting our shores. I do not therefore intend to change the basis on which light dues are currently charged, although I will continue to work with all interested parties to seek an equitable means of ensuing that all those who benefit from the provision and supervision of marine aids to navigation by the general lighthouse authorities pay towards their provision where it is viable, practicable and economic to do so.

The Government also believe a solution needs to be found as soon as possible to the imbalance of funding for aids to navigation in the Republic of Ireland. I have written to the Irish Minister of Transport; it is my intention to conclude a negotiated agreement with the Irish Government and to implement that agreement as quickly as is reasonably possible thereafter.

Renewable Fuels Agency (Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): In accordance with paragraph 14 of the schedule to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007, the accounts of the Renewable Fuels Agency for 2009-10 and the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General have been laid before Parliament today.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Accounting for the Delivery of Welfare

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): The Jobcentre Plus annual report and accounts 2009-10 will be laid before Parliament today. They will be published electronically on the Department's website later today.

The annual report section provides a summary of Jobcentre Plus's performance against the business priorities and targets stated in the 2009-10 published business plan. The accounts provide a summary of Jobcentre Plus's administrative and employment programme expenditure for 2009-10.

Copies will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office shortly.

Independent Living Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): The trustees of the Independent Living Fund took the decision to close the fund to all new applicants as of June 2010. This decision was taken to ensure the fund remained within its £348 million budget. This followed the decision in March to write to local authorities announcing that from 1 May the fund would only be able to accept new applications from disabled people in paid work of 16 hours or more, in line with the existing priorities set out in its governing trust deed.

We have considered the circumstances that led to the decision to restrict eligibility and then to close the fund to new applicants. A combination of factors contributed to this situation. The uncertainty and sensitivity of financial forecasting assumptions and a short-notice film reduction in the fund's 2010-11 budget implemented by the previous Administration led to the trustees' decision to restrict eligibility for the fund. The previous Administration failed to approve this decision—which enabled the ILF to live within their 2010-11 budget—until March 2010. The confusion and uncertainty caused by this chain of events is unacceptable.

The ILF has now put in place a more robust methodology for forecasting future expenditure and has safeguarded the support allocated to the 21,000 existing recipients of the fund. I have asked the Department and the ILF to ensure that all the lessons are learned from this situation and that appropriate procedures are put in place to ensure that the fund's budget remains on track.

Further compounding the situation was the failure of the previous Administration to take a principled and strategic decision about the future role of the fund. This was despite a comprehensive and independent review of the fund published in 2007 which recommended that the ILF should retain NDPB status until 2009-10 at which point a decision should be made, based on the presumption of the full integration of the funding stream into personalised budgets.

The coalition Government are committed to ensuring severely disabled people receive the support they need and, working closely with the trustees, we will consider and settle the long-term future of the ILF as part of the forthcoming spending review.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 27 July 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Sheffield Forgemasters International Ltd

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): The Government's decision to cancel the £80 million loan for a new 15,000 tonne press that had been conditionally offered to Sheffield Forgemasters by the last Government was taken on the grounds of affordability. Sheffield Forgemasters is a great British company with a dedicated, highly skilled workforce and a strong senior management team. The Government's decision is no reflection on the company's staff, directors or this particular project.

It is a worthwhile project, but when the coalition Government came into office they discovered that the previous Administration had allocated too much money across Government. In total, the previous Government approved £34 billion of new spending commitments between 1 January 2010 and the general election. It was therefore necessary to seek additional savings of £6 billion in this financial year. This meant that Ministers across the whole of Government had to take a number of very difficult decisions—cancelling the loan for a new 15,000 tonne press that had been offered to Sheffield Forgemasters was one such decision. The cancellation of the loan has not led to redundancies. In fact, the company continues to prosper.

Although the question of equity dilution had no bearing on the decision not to proceed with the loan to Forgemasters, comments made by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister have been queried and I therefore wish to explain the position.

When giving oral evidence to the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee on 20 July 2010, I explained that there is an inherent problem with a relatively small company taking on a very big project. If the company finances the project with a large amount of debt it is likely to become so highly geared that its long-term viability is put at risk. If it funds the project with third-party equity, existing shareholders have to dilute their shareholding. This is not a criticism of the company, its shareholders or the project; it is simply a statement of the problem and it is something that the chief executive of Sheffield Forgemasters, Graham Honeyman, raised in an interview with the Yorkshire Post on 17 June 2010 when he made the following points:

> "Private equity would take the whole of the shareholding away from Forgemasters and put it in the hands of somebody else. That is, not just my shares (49%) or the other directors, 65% of the shop floor own the shares in the company. The amount of money to put in to fund the press would more or less have to absorb the whole of the shareholding".
>
> "The reason why we went to the Government is the interest rates were reasonable. Bank interest rates are very high therefore we would have to make huge profits every year in order just to pay off interest on the debt. This is why we needed support from the Government".

It is this dilution that the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister were referring to when they spoke in the House. The chief executive of Sheffield Forgemasters has confirmed that he is prepared to dilute his shareholding in the company in order to facilitate the project. However, it has also been clear that the shareholders would seek a fair price for any equity sale, and at this time their view is that their returns from growing the business organically are likely to exceed those from undertaking the 15,000 tonne press project if the purchase of the press was financed by substantial equity dilution.

On 20 July, Sheffield Forgemasters issued a statement in which the company said:

> "We are still keen to undertake the 15,000 tonne press development but feel that the company's best interests will be served by suspending work on the project for the time being. The opportunities in global nuclear will continue to grow".
>
> "This pause will give the company, which has invested more than two years and significant funds to this project, time to resume a greater focus on growing our business into civil nuclear and other sectors. We will continue to pursue other development opportunities based around our 10,000 tonne and 4,000 tonne forging presses and our recently completed programme of machine shop improvements".
>
> "As our thinking develops we will of course take up the Government's offer of further discussions. The company recognises the difficult financial position faced by the country and accepts the loan offer will not be reinstated".

The Government understand this decision and the company's desire to focus on other projects. We have made clear that we stand ready to work closely with the company as it pursues its ambitions and we are willing to look carefully at all proposals, as we would for any project, when the future availability of public funds becomes clearer after the completion of the spending review.

TREASURY

Tax Policy Documents

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Government are today publishing nine documents relating to tax, following commitments made at the Budget. The Government set out their new approach to tax policy making at the Budget, designed to support their ambition for a more predictable, stable and simple tax system.

(http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget_tax_policy_making.htm).

The publication of these documents together is consistent with the principles set out in that document; it provides businesses, tax professionals and other interested parties with comprehensive information of the Government's proposed reforms to these elements of the tax system.

Further detail on these documents is provided below. Copies of these documents are available on the tax policy discussion page of the HM Treasury website and the current consultations page of the HMRC website and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

PAYE reform

The Government today are publishing a consultation on improving the operation of "Pay As You Earn" (PAYE), which seeks views on the collection of real time information to simplify taxation and reduce burdens on business. It also invites views on an option for longer-term reform to improve accuracy and further reduce administrative burdens, or alternative proposals to the same end. The Government seek interested parties' views on these proposals. This document is available on the HMRC website.

Furnished holiday lettings

The Government today are publishing a consultation document on a proposal to ensure the tax rules for furnished holiday lettings meet EU legal requirements in a fiscally responsible way, by changing the eligibility thresholds and restricting the use of loss relief. The Government seek interested parties' views on the proposal set out in the document. This document is available on the HM Treasury website.

Pensions tax relief

The Government announced in the June Budget that they are considering the issue of pensions tax relief. The Government today are publishing a discussion paper setting out the range of policy issues that would need to be decided in any new regime. The Government seek interested parties' views on these issues. This document is available on the HM Treasury website.

Associated company rules

The Government today are publishing a summary of responses to the recent consultation on simplifying the associated company rules as they apply to the small profits rate of corporation tax. As announced in the June Budget, the Government will introduce the proposed legislation in Finance Bill 2011 and it will take effect from 1 April 2011. This document is available on the HM Treasury website.

Taxation of foreign branches

The Government today are publishing a discussion document on the scope of an exemption for foreign branch profits, aimed at delivering a more territorial approach to corporation tax to enhance the UK's competitiveness. The Government seek interested parties' views on the likely impacts of the proposals set out in the document and on implementation of these proposals. This document is available on the HM Treasury website.

Controlled Foreign Companies interim improvements

The Government today are publishing a short note setting out the aim and scope of CFC interim improvements together with the framework for consultation over the summer. The Government seek interested parties' views on the nature of these improvements, including possible options to achieve the aims set out here and potential other worthwhile improvements that should be considered. This document is available on the HM Treasury website.

Modernisation of Investment Trust Company rules

The Government today are publishing a consultation document which sets out the Government's proposals for modernising tax rules for investment trust companies, together with consequential amendments to the Companies Act by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. The Government seek interested parties' views on the proposals for change. This document is available on the HMRC website.

Inheritance tax avoidance schemes

The Government today are publishing a consultation on legislation designed to bring inheritance tax, as it applies to the transfer of property into trust, into the disclosure regime with the objective of addressing the problem of identifying such schemes and users at an early stage. The Government seek interested parties' views on the detail of implementation. This document is available on the HMRC website.

National Minimum Wage: travel and subsistence schemes

The Government today are publishing a summary of responses to the recent consultation on travel and subsistence schemes implemented for some temporary workers paid at or near the national minimum wage (NMW). The Government have carefully considered the responses and have concluded that, on balance, action should be taken. They will amend the NMW regulations to take effect from 1 January 2011. This document is available on the HM Treasury website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ministerial Hospitality

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): I am today publishing the details of receptions hosted by Ministers at the Department for Communities and Local Government for 2009-10.

The total cost of these receptions was £9251.19.

Date	*Host*	*Event*	*Venue*	*Number of Attendees*
12/10/09	Rt Hon John Denham MP	Eid Ul-Fitr Reception (co-hosted with Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary)	Foreign and CommonwealthOffice	425 (approx)
02/12/09	Rt Hon John Denham MP	CLG Christmas Press Reception	House of Commons	50
15/03/10	Barbara Follett MP	A reception to recognise the work volunteers did for their communities during the severe weather in winter of 2009/10 .	Eland House	50
16/03/10	Shahid Malik MP	A reception to recognise the efforts of the UK International Search and Rescue Team in Haiti.	Admiralty House	100
03/06/10	Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP	External Relations Reception	Eland House	126
19/07/10	Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP	Reception with house builders	Eland House	13

Zero-Carbon Homes

The Minister for Housing (Grant Shapps): The coalition programme sets out this Government's ambitions for a low-carbon and eco-friendly economy, and to be the greenest Government ever. Substantial, and cost-effective, reductions in carbon emissions from buildings will be an essential part of our effort.

Much of that reduction will come from retrofitting the existing housing stock, but new-build homes will need to play an important part. The coalition programme commits to continuous improvements in the energy efficiency of new housing. We need to make sure that our homes in future are cleaner, greener and cheaper to run from the outset. We must also meet the challenge to build more homes.

We will therefore ensure that from 2016 new homes need not add extra carbon to the atmosphere.

Our approach will balance mitigating the impact of new development in carbon terms against the viability of that development. This will involve a flexible approach which sets an ambitious level of energy efficiency and carbon compliance measures in building regulations, and enables developers and local authorities, working together, to achieve zero-carbon. The role of local authorities is central in achieving real reductions in carbon emissions, and we will ensure that they will have their say when it comes to delivering zero-carbon homes.

I am announcing today some important further steps on the route to zero-carbon.

First, I can confirm that we will introduce the minimum standard for fabric energy efficiency based on that set out in the recent consultation on the Code for Sustainable Homes. We will take this forward in the future revisions of part L of the building regulations.

Secondly, we will set a national benchmark carbon compliance standard in building regulations. I will need to be realistic and take account of costs. The Government recognise the challenges posed by the 70% level previously proposed and the case for this needs to be re-examined. Therefore, I am commissioning more work from the Zero-Carbon Hub to test what would be an appropriate level. I have asked the hub to report back on this as early as they can.

There has been considerable interest in giving developers the option to meet their further obligations through payments to fund local energy projects, possibly via an existing local tariff mechanism. We intend to explore the feasibility of this option over the coming months, including how the use of such funds for carbon abatement could complement the delivery of other types of infrastructure. We intend to ensure that local authorities have a prominent role in the design and delivery of funds that may be made available through any payment mechanism. We will work with local authorities and the house building industry to establish the precise details of any potential approach.

To respond to these challenging new standards, industry will need to develop innovative and better integrated design and building methods and technologies; methods which will not only enable them to build new and better homes, but which will make our construction industries more competitive internationally in the coming years. To support these efforts, we will continue to work closely with industry through bodies such as the Zero-Carbon Hub and I can confirm that we have made an allocation of £600,000 for this year to support the hub's work. We will also work with house builders to assist them in complying with these standards, and those charged with ensuring there is compliance, to ensure that energy and carbon savings are obtained.

This Government are committed to ensuring that all new homes post-2016 can be zero-carbon while ensuring that the costs of new build do not prevent appropriate and sustainable development.

DEFENCE

Ministry of Defence Resource Accounts 2009-10

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): I am pleased to announce that I have published the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) resource accounts for 2009-10. They will provide a comprehensive overview of the Department's financial performance for the year, together with data on some specific areas of non-financial performance, including factual information on the Department's contribution towards public service agreements and departmental strategic objective targets. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House, and will be available online from the MOD's website at the following link:

www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceFor/Researchers/

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Parliamentary Written Answer (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker): I would like to inform the House that a written answer I gave on 6 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 147-8W, UIN 5720, to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright), was incorrect. The hon. Member's question tabled on 2 July 2010 asked what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible.

In my written answer of 6 July 2010, I provided a list of NDPBs that referred to both the Office of Nuclear Development (OND) and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (GEMA).

The entry that read:

"Office for Nuclear Development: Area 3D, 3 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW"

should have read:

"Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board: Area 3D, 3 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW".

The inclusion of OND was due to OND's role in providing the secretariat for the NLFAB.

The list included the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (GEMA). GEMA is not a non-departmental public body, but rather it is a non-ministerial Government Department.

These errors were due to inaccurate transcription from an existing internal database.

The full answer should read as follows:

Civil Nuclear Police Authority: H280 Hinton House, Birchwood Park Avenue, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 6AS

The Coal Authority: 200 Lichfield Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 4RG

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Herdus House, Westlakes Science and Technology Park, Moor Row, Cumbria CA24 3HU

Committee on Climate Change: 4th Floor, Manning House, 22 Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1JA

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management: Area 3D, 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW

Fuel Poverty Advisory Group: Area 1D, 3 Whitehall Place SW1A 2AW

Renewables Advisory Board: Area 4A, 3 Whitehall Place SW1A 2AW

Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board: Area 3D, 3 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW

UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee: Area G01, 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW

Nuclear Liabilities Fund: Farringdon Place, 20 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3AP

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Explanatory Memoranda 9 June 2010 - 9 July 2010 (Correction)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): I regret that the written ministerial statement given on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 41 WS, contained a factual error:

Meetings of the Lords Select Committee on the European Union commenced on Tuesday 22 June 2010 and not on Tuesday 29 June 2010 as stated.

International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion (Kosovo)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): I welcome the delivery of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on 22 July on the accordance with international law of the unilateral declaration of independence in respect of Kosovo.

The ICJ decided, by 10 votes to four, that Kosovo's declaration of independence did not violate international law. In coming to this opinion, the ICJ considered general international law, UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Kosovo constitutional framework.

The Government are a strong supporter of Kosovo's independence. The United Kingdom submitted arguments to the ICJ in support of the conclusion which the Court eventually reached.

The Milosevic regime's campaign of ethnic cleansing in 1999, which led to the forced exile in neighbouring countries of around half the entire Kosovo Albanian population, with thousands of deaths and other acts of brutal violence at the hands of Serbian forces, meant that Kosovo could never again be integrated back into Serbia. Kosovo has been functioning as an independent state for two and a half years and the UK holds firm in its conviction that Kosovo as a sovereign state defined by its existing borders is a positive force for stability in the Western Balkans.

Despite differences over Kosovo's status, EU member states agree about the next steps. Kosovo's and Serbia's long term futures are in the EU. All EU member states are backing Baroness Ashton's offer to facilitate talks on matters of practical co-operation between Kosovo and Serbia. This will help both countries take steps together which will improve the lives of ordinary people of all communities and move them towards their EU future. The Government have made it absolutely clear that any attempt to encourage the partition of Kosovo or re-open status talks threatens stability in the entire Balkans region and will be strongly resisted. We believe that the Opinion's publication should mark an end to discussions on Kosovo's status.

The Government will continue to lobby for further recognitions for Kosovo. We believe that the ICJ Opinion will encourage those states who have not yet done so to recognise Kosovo.

HEALTH

Cancer Drugs

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): In 2008, Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Cancer Director, was asked to lead a review of the extent and causes of international variations in drug usage and provide a report. Professor Richard' report has been in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

I would like to thank Professor Richards and his advisory group for their work on the report. They have undertaken a thorough review, which represents the most comprehensive analysis yet of the extent and potential causes of international variations in medicines usage.

The report explores the extent and causes of international variations in drug usage across 14 countries, including the United Kingdom, for a range of conditions and diseases. The report indicates that there are wide international variations in usage of most of the drugs included in the study. Although a few countries emerge as generally high or low users, there does not appear to be a uniform pattern across disease areas.

As with most of the countries studied, usage levels in the UK appear mixed when looking across the range of conditions. It does however show high levels of use in some important areas, for example of lipid-regulating drugs which are helping to prevent many deaths from cardiovascular disease.

One of the more concerning findings in the report relates to our usage of newer cancer drugs, which lags behind that of most of the countries studied. The findings in this report make it even more important that Government do everything it can to remove barriers to doctors prescribing the cancer drugs they think will help their NHS patients. In the medium term our plans to introduce value-based medicines pricing in 2014, on expiry of the current pharmaceutical price regulation scheme, will allow Government to take the initiative on access to new medicines. We will make new medicines available to NHS patients at a price that represents their value, rather than being restricted to recommending against the use of a new drug in the NHS due to the price its manufacturer sets.

However, we also need to act to improve access to these drugs in the meantime. As an interim measure, the coalition agreement set out our plans to establish a cancer drugs fund from April 2011, subject to the spending review outcome. The need for this fund is clearly supported by Professor Richards' findings, and we will be consulting on our plans for the fund later in the year. But the report underlines the need for action now to help NHS patients access the cancer drugs their doctors think will benefit them.

I am therefore announcing today additional funding of £50 million for this financial year to support improved access to cancer drugs. This funding, which has been found from a review of Department of Health central budgets, will be made available through clinically-led regional panels from October 2010.

This Government are committed to ensuring that cancer patients no longer have to worry about whether they will be able to get the cancer drugs their doctors recommend from the NHS.

Right to Request Social Enterprise Scheme

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Paul Burstow): I will be announcing shortly the second wave of National Health Service organisations that will join the Department's "Right to Request" social enterprise scheme. Details will be placed in the Library of the House when available.

The "Right to Request" gives all primary and community care staff employed by primary care trusts (PCTs) the right to put a request to their PCT board to set up a social enterprise to deliver health and social care services. Each of these organisations has received the approval of their PCT and strategic health authority (SHA) to pursue plans to set up a social enterprise. With appropriate support, these projects should go on to become successful and financially viable social enterprises that strengthen the delivery of tailored health and social care services in the NHS.

The projects include a wide range of health and social care services, including those for children, young people and adults, and end of life, mental health and disability services. They range from single service lines to whole provider arms.

This announcement is part of the ambition set out in "Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS":

> "to create the largest and most vibrant social enterprise sector in the world".

The initiative to encourage and support social enterprises to deliver public services is the first of its kind in the world. The scheme empowers staff to harness their entrepreneurial skills and exercise leadership to improve services for local communities through social enterprise.

I am committed to supporting the creation and expansion of mutuals, co-operatives, charities and social enterprises and want to enable these groups to have much greater involvement in the running of health and social care services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Orders

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in the information given in the statement entitled Control Order Powers (11 March 2010-10 June 2010) and laid before Parliament on 21 June 2010.

The statement reports that 10 of the 12 individuals subject to a control order as of 10 June 2010 were British citizens. The correct figure was that nine of the 12 individuals subject to a control order were British citizens.

Criminal Records Bureau (Annual Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): I announce that the 2009-10 annual report and accounts for the Criminal Records Bureau has been laid before the House today and published on the CRB website. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

Licensing Consultation

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): On Wednesday 28 July the Home Office will be publishing a public consultation on proposals to overhaul the Licensing Act.

In the coalition agreement, the Government set out a clear programme of reform around alcohol licensing to tackle the crime and antisocial behaviour that is too often associated with binge drinking in the night-time economy. In particular, the Government set out the following commitments which are covered in this consultation.

> We will overhaul the Licensing Act to give local authorities and the police much stronger powers to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, any premises that are causing problems.
>
> We will allow councils and the police to shut down permanently any shop or bar found to be persistently selling alcohol to children.
>
> We will double the maximum fine for under-age alcohol sales to £20,000.
>
> We will permit local councils to charge more for late-night licences to pay for additional policing.
>
> We will ban the sale of alcohol below cost price.

While we recognise the important role which pubs can play as part of the fabric of neighbourhoods and communities, the introduction of the Licensing Act in 2005 has not brought with it a vibrant "café culture". Too often on a Friday and Saturday night, the police and local A&E departments bear the brunt of some of the worst excesses of binge drinking and alcohol-fuelled crime and disorder. We are determined to change this, and will be proposing to introduce more flexibility into the current licensing regime to allow local authorities and the police to clamp down on alcohol-related crime and disorder hot spots within local night-time economies.

The consultation document will be available on the Home Office website and printed copies will also be available in the Vote Office.

Scientific Procedures on Living Animals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): The statistics of "Scientific Procedures on Living Animals—Great Britain—2009" (HC 317), was laid before the House today. Copies will be available in the Vote office.

This annual statistical report meets the requirement in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to inform Parliament about the licensed use of animals for experimental or other scientific purposes. It also forms the basis for meeting periodic reporting requirements at EU level. Supplementary information with additional tables is also available on the Home Office website.

The statistical report shows an overall decrease of 36,540 (-1%) in the number of procedures started, from 3,656,080 in 2008 to 3,619,540 in 2009. This fall followed six previous annual increases and is the second highest total since the current method of recording was introduced in 1987. A number of factors, such as investment in research and development and strategic funding priorities, determine the overall level of scientific procedures.

The Home Office, as regulatory authority under the 1986 Act, ensures that its provisions are rigorously applied and only authorises work that is scientifically justified and minimises the numbers of animals used and the animal suffering that may be caused.

The statistical report and supplementary information can be found at:

http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/animal-research/publications-and-reference/statistics/

I am also pleased to inform the House that I have today placed in the Library the annual report of the "Home Office Animals Scientific Procedures Division and Inspectorate" for the year 2009.

Publication of the report honours a commitment given in response to a recommendation of the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures in July 2002 that more information should be made available about the implementation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Earlier annual reports focused on the work of the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate. The report for 2009 is the second in which the work of the Animals Scientific Procedures Division licensing and policy teams has also been included.

As in previous years, the report explains what Home Office inspectors do and how they do it and the inspectorate's role in assessing and advising on applications for personal and project licences and certificates of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and reporting non-compliance.

The report also explains how the Animals Scientific Procedures Division and Inspectorate have continued to work towards delivering a better regulation programme to improve regulation of animal experimentation; reports on the successful outcome of the Hampton review of their regulatory performance conducted in 2009; and provides further information on the negotiation of a revised European Directive to replace European Union Directive 86/609/EEC on which the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is based.

PRIME MINISTER

National Security Vetting

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): National security vetting is a critically important control for protecting UK interests. It is important for our domestic security, for the protection of sensitive information, and for the protection of critical sites and individuals assessed to be at risk from terrorism. It facilitates information sharing with international partners, and defence and intelligence co-operation.

Vetting arrangements should be as transparent as national security considerations allow. Consequently, a copy of "HMG Personnel Security Controls" has been placed in the Library. This describes the vetting checks that may be made in order to safeguard national security. It describes a renewed emphasis upon a proportionate approach to vetting in terms of the application and decision-making process, to ensure that vulnerabilities are properly managed, subjective judgments are not made, and grievances can be heard. This statement replaces the Statement of Vetting Policy made on 15 December 1994, *Official Report*, columns 764-766W.

Intelligence-Gathering Techniques

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): The annual reports of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Christopher Rose, (HC 168), the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Paul Kennedy, (HC 341), and the Intelligence Services Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Peter Gibson, (HC 342) have today been laid before both Houses of Parliament.

There is, rightly, a considerable level of public interest in the use by public authorities of covert intelligence-gathering techniques. The Government are committed to ensuring that public authorities only use these powers when it is necessary and proportionate to do so. The commissioners play an important role in monitoring the use of these powers by public authorities, and ensuring compliance.

It is regrettable that systematic failings have been noted by the Interception of Communications Commissioner in some prison establishments, and that a small number of errors have occurred elsewhere. As the commissioners themselves make clear, the details of these incidents cannot be disclosed publicly for security reasons. Following the practice of many years, my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for the Home Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Northern Ireland and Defence have been provided by the commissioners with a detailed description of and explanation for these errors. The Government are satisfied that appropriate action has been taken to address these failings.

I extend my thanks to Sir Christopher, Sir Paul and Sir Peter, and to their staff, for their work on these reports.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Support (Disabled People)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): Today the Government are reaffirming their clear commitment to disabled people by launching a new programme to provide support for severely disabled people. The new programme, currently called Work Choice, will be introduced from 25 October 2010. It will sit alongside the Work Programme and will help into work disabled people who face the most complex and long-term barriers to employment and who may require high intensity support in the workplace.

Nearly half of all disabled people work and many more want to work but have not had the right support. Work Choice will provide that support for more severely disabled people who want to move into employment. It will replace the existing confusing array of DWP specialist disability employment provision (WORKSTEP, Work Preparation and the Job Introduction Scheme) across England, Scotland and Wales.

Work Choice will greatly improve upon the effectiveness of current provision by tailoring support to the needs of each severely disabled individual to help move them into and stay in long-term sustainable jobs.

Reform in this sector is long overdue. In the past, provision has been patchy with a fragmented network of providers. Work Choice will simplify the current overlapping set of programmes and will reduce the number of provider contracts from more than 200 to just 28.

Work Choice has been developed in close consultation with providers, disability groups and disabled people and has widespread support.

Work has been ongoing since the coalition Government took office to ensure continuity of support. We are making this announcement now to ensure that all providers are able to prepare fully to deliver the programme from October.

We will now proceed to contract with the successful bidders for the Work Choice programme.

Petitions

Wednesday 21 July 2010

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing (Croydon)

The Petition of New Addington residents,

Declares that much needed family homes are being shoe-horned into unsuitable former garage sites that compromise the visual amenity and environment of old and new residents alike, and that the local Council thus pays disrespect to New Addington.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to investigate whether value for money is being achieved from the housing grant paid to Croydon Council and to place improved conditions on quality of design and setting for new Council housing in the London Borough of Croydon.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 790 .]

[P000814]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government understands that the London Borough of Croydon has granted planning permission for a housing scheme on a former garage site in New Addington and that the Registered Social Landlord is preparing to go on site. The Secretary of State also notes that although the garages were a source of anti-social behaviour, there are objections to the housing scheme.

The Government's policy is not to interfere with the day-to-day planning control functions of a local planning authority unless it is absolutely necessary to do so. This is because local authority councillors are elected to represent the views of local people and, in the main, it is these councillors who are in the best position to decide whether a development should go ahead or not.

As part of their proposals for Building the Big Society, the Government intend to give communities more powers. In relation to the planning system they propose to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live.

The Government recently revised Planning Policy Guidance 3: Housing, putting power back in the hands of local authorities and communities to take the decisions that are best for them, and decide for themselves the best locations and types of development in their areas. This gives Local Authorities the freedom to prevent overdevelopment of their areas.

The majority of grant funding for house building is not paid to Councils, but direct to Registered Social Landlords. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) works closely with Local Authorities to agree strategy and investment based on locally determined priorities. The HCA is working in this way with the London Borough of Croydon to provide housing which meets local needs and contributes to the creation of high quality places. Key funding provided directly to Croydon Council is for the Local Authority New Build (LANB) programme. The HCA assesses all bids made by Local Authorities for LANB funding against four areas of criteria—value for money, deliverability, strategic fit and design and quality. The Secretary of State has no reason to believe that value for money is not being achieved and does not propose to investigate at this stage, but he understands that the HCA will raise the concerns lodged in the petition from New Addington residents with the London Borough of Croydon to ensure that the housing which is provided within New Addington provides the best solution possible for residents.

Pear Tree Farm (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Addington and Forestdale,

Declares that the residents are concerned that there should be a regularisation of the planning arrangements for Pear Tree Farm, a waste transfer station nestled in the Green Belt on the borders of the London Borough of Croydon and Tandridge District Council.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to see Croydon and Tandridge Councils regularise the planning arrangements at the site and to see the Environment Agency review the Waste Transfer Licence for Pear Tree Farm.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 605 .]

[P000795]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware of the concerns of local residents about the activities on the Pear Tree Farm site.

The Secretary of State understands that lawful planning use of the land in question was determined in 1981 when an established use certificate was granted for use of part of the site for

> "the dumping and transfer of waste building materials, top soil and manure and for the parking of farm and other commercial vehicles".

The Secretary of State is informed that following increases in the activity on the site and local complaints, Croydon Council undertook a series of enforcement investigations, subsequent to which—across a number of years—a series of planning applications and applications for Lawful Development Certificate have been made and refused, and that there are four enforcement notices requiring remedial action by September 2008 which remain extant. He understands that Croydon Council is continuing to collect evidence to establish the degree of planning control breaches further to the extant enforcement notices in relation to the possibility of further action.

The Government's policy is not to interfere with the day to day planning control functions of a local planning authority unless it is absolutely necessary to do so. This is because local authority Councillors are elected to represent the views of local people and, in the main, it is these Councillors who are in the best position to decide whether a development should go ahead or be refused, or whether enforcement action should be taken. In determining any planning application the local planning authority are required to have regard to all material considerations, including the development plan, national policies and views expressed by third parties. It is, of course, for local planning authorities to provide whatever justification it may be appropriate to give for their decisions and procedures. The Secretary of State's potential formal decision-making role in relation to any planning application or appeal (against refusal of permission or in relation to enforcement) also means it would be inappropriate for him to seek to influence the decisions of the local planning authorities in relation to the site in question.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REGULATION

The Secretary of State is informed that the London Waste Regulation Authority (predecessor of the Environment Agency) issued a waste management licence (permit) to Samuel Smith to receive and handle certain low risk types of waste on the site in 1982 and again in 1986. He is also informed that the Environment Agency regularly inspects the permitted area of the site against the licence conditions. Although there have been minor permit breaches, no legal action has been taken against the operators. It is understood that the Environment Agency has some operational concerns with the site, and has begun a permit review to address these. The reason for any such review is to update an old permit and to provide the appropriate level of regulatory control to this site relevant to current activities.

Planning (Chester)

The Humble Petition of the people of Chester in the County of Cheshire being electors of the Local Authority of Cheshire West and Chester,

Sheweth, that in the process of our new Local Authority of Cheshire West and Chester planning the disposal of its Chester County Hall in a restricted preferential sale to Chester University, and of making a costly move of its Chester headquarters, on a leasehold agreement, to the new so called 'HQ Building' beside Chester racecourse, the local community has found itself excluded throughout from any meaningful consultation over the plan with Council; and has additionally been denied essential information prior to the completion of the scheme, and subsequent to it, that we are certain we should have been entitled to know.

Sheweth, that this failure by our local authority to consult with its people over this planning matter is in conflict with the legislative requirements and advisory guidance issued by Parliament in the form of, for example, the publication 'Communities in Control-real people, real power', and the 'Action for Empowerment' and 'Duty to Involve' white papers stating a statutory duty for all councils to engage fully and from an early stage with the public over such matters; and that this behaviour towards its public by Cheshire West and Chester Council is, in addition, in conflict with its own published 'Statement of Community Involvement' and the operative interim and draft forms of its 'Sustainable Community Strategy'.

Sheweth in addition the validity of this most respectful submission by dutifully reminding this House of the relevance of and of the UK's commitment as a full signatory to the 'European Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters'; this generally being known as 'The Arhus Agreement'.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House refer our petition to the relevant Select Committee for Communities and Local Government or other body as you deem appropriate requesting that the body review the effectiveness of the said legislation and guidance concerned with the duty to involve provided by this House with reference to the way local authorities are interpreting and operating that legislation and guidance in the public interest and with regard to our legislated rights.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Christine Russell, Official Report, 23 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 216 .]*

[P000766]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application was submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council in respect of County Hall. He is advised that the application was submitted on 15 September 2009.

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council are responsible for the day to day planning control in their area, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application. The Government's policy is not to interfere with the jurisdiction of a local planning authority unless it is necessary to do so. This is because local authority Councillors are elected to represent the views of local people and, in the main, it is these Councillors who are in the best position to decide whether a development should go ahead. It is, of course, for local planning authorities to provide whatever justification it may be appropriate to give for their decisions and procedures.

In determining a planning application the local planning authority who have full knowledge of the local circumstances are required to have regard to all material considerations including the development plan, national policies and views expressed by third parties.

The Secretary of State can decide to call-in an application for his own determination if he considers that it raises matters of more than local importance, but his policy is to be very selective about this.

Following the application to the Council, representations were received requesting the Secretary of State to call-in the application but it was considered that the matter did not raise issues of more than local significance and so the matter was left to the Council to determine.

Planning and Development (Benfleet, Essex)

The Petition of Brian Keeler, the residents of Castle Point and others.

Declares that they object to the proposed development of the area between Nos. 18 to 32 High Road, Benfleet to construct a building providing 5 Retail Units at Ground Level, 22 Parking Spaces, 2 Offices, plus 12 x 2 bed flats and 2 x 1 bed flats at 1st and 2nd floor levels; that this development should be rejected because the proposed, much larger building would dominate and overlook existing properties, bring unacceptable problems including inadequate parking, fails to show where access to and from the site parking area, bearing in mind an existing public parking area in Adelaide Gardens, vague refuse storage area, restricted sight lines for emerging traffic from St Mary's Drive, reduction of the pavement, loss of light entering adjoining buildings and relocation of the heritage telephone kiosk and post box; further declares that this development would further spoil the Conservation Area and create unacceptable stress on the existing infrastructure, including roads, schools, rail, doctors, dentists, etc.; that for these and many other valid planning reasons this application be rejected by the local Councillors, elected to represent their constituents, and that given the importance to the wider community of protecting this unique Conservation Area, unelected and unaccountable officers must properly and widely consult the public before permitting such developments.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press Castle Point Borough Council, and all Councillors, to reject this planning application and to substantially protect the unique St Mary's Conservation area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* Tuesday 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 784 .]

[P000799]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State is aware that a planning application had been submitted to Castle Point Borough Council in respect of the above development. He is advised that the application was rejected by the Borough Council on 26 May 2020.

Planning and Development (Hadleigh, Essex)

The Petition of local residents and others objecting to the back garden development of eight flats in two blocks at 21 Lynton Road Hadleigh,

Declares that the proposed development is out of character with the area, has insufficient parking and garden amenity space, would make an unacceptable imposition on the street scene, is by its bulk and design over obtrusive, would make unacceptable impositions on local road congestion, and on fresh water demand and sewage and surface water disposal, would make local road junctions serving the streets more dangerous, does not provide suitable access to the site from the road and would create disturbance, noise and other problems for local residents; further notes that there is sufficient previously developed land to provide all the housing needs for this region without such intensive building in the green belt or back gardens and that the council is under no obligation or pressure from the Government to vote for this application if it chooses not to.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press Castle Point Borough Council, and the Conservative Council Group, to ensure this application is decided by councillors who can be held to account, rather than officers, and that it is rejected.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 784.]

[P000798]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application had been submitted to Castle Point Borough Council in respect of the above development. He is advised that the application was rejected by the Borough Council on 8th April 2010.

TRANSPORT

Dunstable Northern Bypass

The Petition of Dunstable Town Council in the constituency of South West Bedfordshire,

Declares that the town of Dunstable suffers serious traffic congestion; further declares that a link road between the A5 and M1 would relieve this congestion; and notes that HM Treasury approved this link on 9 December 2009.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to commence without delay the A5-M1 link as approved by HM Treasury on 9 December 2009.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report,* 30 June 2010; Vol. 512, c. 967 .]

[P000840]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Draft Orders for the A5-M1 link were published on 9 December 2009, but HM Treasury has never given funding approval for this scheme. On 11 December 2009 HM Treasury approved funding for the construction of M1 Junctions 10-13 Hard Shoulder Running scheme that is now on site. This scheme is separate from the A5-M1 link.

The A5-M1 Link scheme is being prepared. However, the Public Inquiry due to be held in July this year has been postponed, in common with other Highway Agency schemes at the same stage, because it is important to ensure that there is clarity during the statutory process on the availability of funding for this scheme. Unfortunately, clarity on the availability of funding will not be available until after the Spending Review. If the scheme is prioritised in the Spending Review it would need to successfully complete the statutory process and receive final approval of the construction budget before it can proceed to site.

The Public Inquiry process could be started quickly once the outcome of the Spending Review is known in the autumn.

Petition

Thursday 22 July 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Lady Forester Community Nursing Home and Forester's Court

The Petition of the people of Much Wenlock

Declares that Lady Forester Community Nursing Home contains 15 single bedrooms and offers residents nursing care; notes that four of the places are funded by the local GP service through Shropshire Primary Care Trust; further notes that Forester's Court comprises 10 one bedroom apartments and provides very sheltered housing; and further declares that the petitioners are opposed to the proposed closure of both Lady Forester Community Nursing Home and Forester's Court.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to take steps to prevent the closure of Lady Forester Community Nursing Home and Forester's Court.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000846]

Petitions

Monday 26 July 2010

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Intensive Care (West Sussex)

The Petition of Mrs J Puttick and residents of the Bognor Regis and Littlehampton constituency and others,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that care received by Mr Ken Puttick at Worthing Hospital, West Sussex, was appalling and inadequate; further declares that consultants were not available at weekends, leading to delays to necessary medical procedures; further declares that the number of intensive care beds available was insufficient to meet the needs of the patients and to allow the necessary time for rehabilitation; and further declares that the training given to nurses caring for patients was inadequate.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to take steps to increase the number of intensive care beds available; to ensure that care for patients is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week; and to improve the training offered to nurses who care for multiple organ failure patients who have been transferred from intensive care units.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Nick Gibb, Official Report,* 6 July 2010; Vol. 513, c. 3P .]

[P000843]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issues raised in the petition are local matters for West Sussex Primary Care Trust (PCT) and my Department will bring these to the attention of the Strategic Health Authority, NHS South East Coast.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Social Behaviour (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of New Addington and Fieldway wards,

Declares that they are concerned about numerous cars have been broken into and damaged, while bins have been repeatedly set on fire around Oak Bank.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage the authorities to introduce improved lighting and an increased police presence in Oak Bank.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 349 .]

[P000786]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government are deeply committed to tackling antisocial behaviour in all its forms and have made it a key priority for action at all levels. We all know that antisocial behaviour and crime are stubborn features of our broken society.

We firmly believe that the public have the right to have their concerns about antisocial behaviour promptly tackled by the police and local partners to ensure that people feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods.

There are a number of powers available to the police, local authorities, social landlords and other front-line practitioners to tackle antisocial behaviour and there is also detailed guidance on how to make full and effective use of them. Warnings, acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs), fixed penalty notices, enforcement of tenancy agreements, antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs), and injunctions are all tools that could be used to stop antisocial behaviour. There should be no situation in which antisocial behaviour cannot be tackled or victims not supported.

We understand from Croydon Council that action is being taken to address the problem.

Cosmetics Testing on Animals

The Petition of the students of Coloma Convent High School and the people of Croydon,

Declares that cosmetics testing on animals is unethical and should be banned.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring in a bill to outlaw the testing of cosmetics on animals.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 6 April 2010; Vol. 508, c. 944 .]

[P000818]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

In 1997-98, the Government secured a voluntary ban on the testing of cosmetic finished products and ingredients on animals in the United Kingdom. We did this because we believed that there was inadequate justification for using animals given the benefits of these products and the alternative tests available. After 13 years of negotiations, other European Union (EU) countries agreed to the phasing in of a near-total ban on the sale of animal-tested cosmetic products throughout the EU from 2009. The European Cosmetics Directive defines cosmetics to include not only vanity products but also other products such as toothpaste, baby care products and sun cream.

We cannot foresee any circumstances under which we would be prepared to issue licences under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 for testing on cosmetic finished products and ingredients.

Human Trafficking

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that human trafficking continues to blight our town.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to use their influence to maintain a dedicated anti-trafficking unit in the Metropolitan Police.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 348 .]

[P000783]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government totally condemn the horrendous crime of trafficking people into, out of and within the United Kingdom and are committed to ensuring the UK is a hostile environment for those who seek to profit from this vile trade.

From 1 April 2010, responsibility for tackling human trafficking in London has rested with an expanded Clubs and Vice Unit which is supported by being part of the Specialist Crime Directorate (SCD) of the Metropolitan Police Service. This change will reduce duplication, improve leadership governance, accountability and clarity for partners and victims. The move to SCD will enable an increased focus on organised crime and enable better access and use of that Directorate's assets in order to improve the response to human trafficking.

Policing (Croydon)

The Petition of people of Croydon,

Declares that the London Borough of Croydon requires a fairer share of police officers in London.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to secure a fairer share of London's police officers for Croydon

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 604 .]

[P000789]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

On 30 September 2009 the Metropolitan Police Service had 32,904 police officers, 4,637 police community support officers and 13,693 police staff. The Government do not determine the number of police officers that are deployed to Croydon by the Metropolitan Police Service: that is a matter for the Commissioner (Sir Paul Stephenson QPM) and the Metropolitan Police Authority. At the end of March 2010 the Croydon Operational Command Unit had 747 police officers, 173 police community support officers and 75 Special Constables.

The Government understand that decisions about the allocation of resources to the London Borough Operational Command Units is informed by the Metropolitan Police Resource Allocation Formula which is kept under review by the Commissioner and the Metropolitan Police Authority. We have drawn this petition to the attention of the Commissioner and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Petitions

Tuesday 27 July 2010

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Gypsies and Travellers (Security of Tenure)

The Petition of Cathay Birch and others,

Declares that the European Court of Human Rights (in 2004) and the House of Lords (in 2008) have stated that the situation regarding the lack of security of tenure for Gypsies and Travellers on rented pitches amounted to a breach of Human Rights; that the Government said they would amend the law by including Council sites within the provisions of the Mobile Homes Act 1983; that the Government then released an e-mail to certain organisations on 10th February 2010 saying that they no longer had time to introduce the necessary amending powers; and that this has happened despite the fact that security of tenure could be introduced with a few simple sentences;

Further declares that the Petitioners believe the Government should take action now to resolve this breach of Human Rights by amending legislation to ensure Gypsies and Travellers on rented pitches have the same rights to security of tenure as other social housing tenants.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Government immediately to bring forward proposals to amend the Act of Parliament pertaining to security of tenure of Gypsies and Travellers on rented pitches to ensure that security of tenure is given.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Julie Morgan, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 787.]

[P000804]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

Section 318 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) removes the current exclusion of local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites from the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (the 1983 Act). The 1983 Act provides occupiers of pitches on residential mobile home sites with improved protection against eviction and other rights and responsibilities.

In late 2008 the previous Government conducted a consultation in response to concerns raised by local authorities and Gypsies and Travellers about the application of some of the 1983 Act. Following this consultation, statutory instruments were drafted that would commence section 318 and at the same time amend the 1983 Act for local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites. There was not enough Parliamentary time to debate these statutory instruments before the general election.

The new Government will be making a decision on section 318 in the context of a wider strategy they are developing in relation to Gypsies and Travellers and an announcement will be made in due course.

EDUCATION

Proposed Expansion (St Peter's School, Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that the proposed expansion of St Peter's Primary School, South Croydon for a "bulge class" in September 2010 and future expansion to 2FE (2 Form Entry) from 1FE will damage the ethos of the school when other suitable schools are currently undersubscribed and notes the massive disruption that will be caused to children at the school.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ask Croydon Council to look at alternative arrangements for accommodating increased demand for school places.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 7 April 2010; Vol. 508, c. 42P.]

[P000825]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

Under current legislation, proposed changes to local school provision, including expansions, are matters for local determination. Where changes are proposed a statutory process must be followed which includes consultation with those likely to be affected by the proposals. Proposals are determined, taking account of any comments or objections received, under established local decision-making arrangements. The Government have no direct role in the process.

We understand that Croydon local authority has recently consulted on proposed changes to primary schools in its area, including the expansion of a number of schools to help accommodate an increase in demand.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 19 July 2010

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to how much expenditure on the future aircraft carriers his Department is contractually committed. [9145]

Peter Luff: The contract placed with the Aircraft Carrier Alliance in 2008 was for the manufacture of two Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers. That contractual commitment has not changed and our current estimate of total project cost is £5.2 billion.

Defence Equipment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what unmanned defence equipment is *(a)* in use, *(b)* in development and *(c)* under consideration for future use; and what the cost to the public purse was of each type of equipment programme on the latest date for which figures are available. [8253]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has many different types of unmanned defence equipment in use, in development and under consideration for future use.

Owing to the variety and number of types of equipment only the major air and land systems have been included in the following table, although in the maritime domain the Royal Navy uses civil derived unmanned underwater vehicles for tasks such as mine countermeasure operations. The table provides the name, description and latest financial approval of the various equipments.

In service equipment

Equipment name	*Description*	*Approval*
Desert Hawk (UOR)	A small hand launched Unmanned Air System (UAS) that provides an 'over the hill' view for commanders on the ground allowing patrols to look ahead and scout for enemy activity.	£36 million
HERMES 450 (UOR)	Currently the Theatre Tactical UAS in Afghanistan. It can carry a variety of different surveillance packages, which it uses to provide high quality imagery for use by brigade and battlegroup commanders.	£181 million
Reaper (UOR)	A strategic medium altitude armed Remotely Piloted Air System. Its primary mission is to contribute to the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) mission in Afghanistan.	£250 million
Wheelbarrow	Currently the largest of the current EOD robot fleet and used in the UK and Afghanistan. It is a well proven Remote Control Vehicle, deploying from a vehicle by either radio control of Fibre Optic link. It entered service in 1972 and achieved its current Mark 8B configuration in 1995.	Due to the length of service of this system, the information is not held in the appropriate format.
Talisman (UOR)	Provides a Route Proving and Clearance capability and has been in use on current operations since April 2010. There are two unmanned equipments within Talisman, the Talon Combat Engineer Remote Control Vehicle (RCV) and the T-Hawk Micro Air Vehicle (MAV).	£120 million. Of which less than £14 million is for the remote controlled elements of the programme.
Dragon Runner (UOR)	A lightweight, man-portable Remote Controlled Vehicle weighing approximately 20 kg. Dragon Runner provides the helicopter and foot mounted EOD operator with a remote capability to approach and, depending on the type, render safe an IED.	£19 million

Equipment under development

Equipment name	*Description*	*Approval*
Watchkeeper	The British Army's new UAS providing persistent, all weather, day and night, real time battlefield surveillance. It will progressively replace the HERMES 450 during 2011.	£1,027 million
Panama (UOR)	A vehicle mounted IED detection capability.	£48 million
Terrier	An armoured earthmoving vehicle that has a remote control capability for the surface clearance of mines. A total of 60 vehicles are to be purchased of which 13 will be capable of being operated by remote control.	£386 million. Of which less than £5 million is for the remote controlled elements.
CUTLASS	The next generation of large EOD remote controlled vehicle. CUTLASS will deliver a high mobility six wheeled robot with a state of the art manipulator arm.	£30 million

Equipment under consideration

Equipment name	*Description*	*Approval*
Future UCAS/ UAS	Joint MOD-industry funded technical demonstrator programmes such as MANTIS and TARANIS to help inform future UAV/ UCAS planning and acquisition decisions to meet emerging MOD capability requirements.	£169 million

Defence: Exports

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the *(a)* competitiveness and *(b)* penetration of defence exports. [9356]

Mr Gerald Howarth: This Government aim to increase Britain's defence exports. The United Kingdom Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) is responsible for promoting British defence industry overseas under the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills. The interests of the Ministry of Defence are recognised under a service level agreement with UKTI.

This Government have publicly stated that we wish to re-energise Government support to defence exports. This is because exports help to secure high skilled British defence manufacturing jobs and to reduce the unit costs of Ministry of Defence acquisition projects through increased production runs.

We also recognise defence exports make an important contribution to achieving wider defence diplomacy objectives.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and I are looking at a number of ways we can achieve this. Ensuring British defence equipment remains competitive is essential to achieving a greater share of the defence market. We have established our five criteria against which future equipment programmes will be assessed, as set out in the speech the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), gave at Dynamic Vehicle Demonstration (DVD) on 23 June 2010 which is freely available at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/People/Ministers/MinisterForDefenceEquipmentSupportAndTechnology.htm

This Government recognise that Government support can be an extremely important factor in making British industry successful overseas. It is our intention to work to achieve greater support to exports while maximising the benefits and value for money to the taxpayer.

Defence: Reviews

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable he has set for publication of the *(a)* value for money review of the Trident replacement programme and *(b)* the report of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [8106]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence's work on the value-for-money study should be completed at the end of this month. The findings will go to the Cabinet Office, and will then be considered by the National Security Council. The council's conclusions will inform the strategic defence and security review and the comprehensive spending review, which will be published in the autumn.

Type 45 Destroyers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the effectiveness of the Sea Viper missile system in protecting air, land and sea forces. [8837]

Peter Luff: The principal anti-air missile system (PAAMS), known as Sea Viper by the Royal Navy, is the primary weapons system of the Type 45 destroyer. With this capability, the Type 45s will be able to engage a large number of targets simultaneously and defend aircraft carriers or groups of ships, such as amphibious landing forces, against current and future threats from the air. This includes stealthy, highly manoeuvrable missiles approaching in salvoes, simultaneously and from several directions.

The missile system is undergoing a rigorous test and integration programme to ensure that all aspects of the system have been thoroughly trialled before it enters service. In June 2010, PAAMS successfully completed a series of test firings. The trials were conducted over a range of scenarios of steadily increasing complexity, culminating in a salvo firing against a high speed and manoeuvring, sea skimming target.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he expects the new Type 45 destroyers to be delivered to the Royal Navy; and if he will make a statement. [8854]

Peter Luff: Under the current programme, the in-service date for HMS Daring, the first in the class of Type 45 Destroyers, is expected to be declared later this summer.

The planned in-service dates for the remaining five Type 45s are listed in the following table:

	Planned in-service date
Dauntless	2011
Diamond	2011
Dragon	2012
Defender	2013
Duncan	2014

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many copies of the report of the Saville Inquiry have been printed in *(a)* full and *(b)* summary; and at what cost to the public purse in each such case. [9509]

Mr Paterson: 285 copies of the 'Report of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry' (HC29, 5,200 pages) and 2,200 copies of the 'Principal Conclusions and Overall Assessment of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry' (HC30, 60 pages) were printed. These copies were printed to facilitate advance sight of the report and provide interested parties with copies; to provide the required number of copies to Parliament and The Stationery Office for publishing purposes; and for provision within Government, to the Northern Ireland Assembly, and to the Irish Government.

The total cost of printing, including costs related to DVD production and the security measures put in place to protect the integrity of the report prior to publication, was £194,652. It is not possible to separate out the individual printing costs of the full report and the summary document.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9056]

Mr Paterson: The Department does not hold central records on attendance at Civil Service Live.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7633]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has incurred no cost in this area.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred no cost since 12 April.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7451][1]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has spent £234 on hospitality.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred no cost on hospitality since 12 April.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Common Fisheries Policy

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the future of the common fisheries policy; and if she will bring forward proposals to *(a)* give local residents more influence over the future of their fishing industries and *(b)* end fish discards. [9330]

Richard Benyon: The UK will press for radical reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP). There must be more regionalised decision-making; genuine integration of fisheries with other marine policies; longer-term management planning; greater flexibility and certainty in the system; and a mechanism to ease the transition to a sustainable and profitable future. In particular we want to see decision making decentralised, and simplified, to give more responsibility for implementation to member states, for example where they are working together regionally.

The wasteful practice of discarding fish must be brought to an end. Reform should give fishermen more control, incentives and responsibility for managing fish stocks and helping to reduce discards. Reform also gives the UK an opportunity to deploy evidence on how switching from landing based quotas to catch quotas can reduce discards.

Fly-tipping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the incidence of fly-tipping. [8793]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is working closely with the Environment Agency, Keep Britain Tidy, local authorities, landowners and other members of the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group to better understand the causes of fly-tipping, and the best approach to reducing incidences of fly-tipping at a local level.

DEFRA works with organisations such as Keep Britain Tidy to support local authorities with training, guidance and advice on their fly-tipping prevention strategies. DEFRA also funds the Flycapture system which records information on fly-tipping incidents dealt with by local authorities as well as enforcement action taken, allowing DEFRA and local authorities to assess the scale of the problem and prioritise action.

We will be considering how best to target our future activity on fly-tipping as part of the recently announced review of waste policies.

Food: Standards

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to *(a)* stimulate the rural economy, *(b)* reduce food miles and *(c)* improve nutritional standards. [7231]

Richard Benyon: The recession has affected rural and urban areas alike, and DEFRA is working to ensure that rural needs and interests are fairly addressed in all relevant Government economic programmes. In particular, DEFRA is working closely with BIS and DCMS to ensure that the benefits of broadband are fully available to rural people, communities and businesses.

DEFRA works closely with all parts of the food industry supply chain to encourage environmental sustainability best practice, including the movement of all types of food. A number of trade associations are working with their members to achieve sustainability targets, for example, to reduce their overall carbon footprint.

Nutritional standards are primarily the responsibility of the Department of Health. The Government believe it is for individuals to take responsibility for their health, including healthy eating. What the Government can do is put in place ways to make this easier and support people, such as the fruit and vegetables task force. DEFRA launched this task force in October 2009 to identify the barriers to increasing domestic production and consumption of fruit and vegetables in England. It brings together growers, processors, wholesalers, major retailers, representatives of street market, the School Food Trust, the Food Standards Agency, research and development professionals, people involved in public procurement and respected academics.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure her Department has incurred in relation to each genetically-modified crop test site it has funded in each year since 1997. [8029]

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[1] *[Official Report, 27 July 2010, Vol. 514, c. 3MC.]*

Mr Paice: DEFRA was the main funder of the ecological research that was undertaken as part of the farm scale evaluation trials of GM herbicide-tolerant crops from 1999 to 2003. The total cost of this project was approximately £5.9 million, of which DEFRA paid £5.36 million. The remaining funding was provided by the Scottish Executive. Costs incurred are not available for individual trial sites, of which there were approximately 260 in total.

In addition, DEFRA has contributed to a research project on the control of potato cyst nematodes under a Government Partnership Award programme. This project has been carried out by the University of Leeds, funded mainly by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, and has included research trials of GM potatoes in 2008 and 2009 as well as laboratory based work. DEFRA's contribution to the overall project cost of £414,000 was £69,000. Specific cost figures just for the field trial component of the project are not readily available.

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 125W, on "Incinerators: Health Hazards", if she will request that the Environment Agency publish its own protocol for the representative sampling and testing of incinerator bottom ash for H14 Ecotoxicity in circumstances in which the Environmental Services Association is unable to complete a protocol to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency. [8851]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has no plans to produce a protocol specifically for assessing H14 ecotoxicity of incinerator bottom ash (IBA). Representative sampling of IBA is already required in order to satisfy the waste incineration directive.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make the undertaking of representative sampling and testing protocol for H14 ecotoxicity of incinerator bottom ash a condition for the granting of environmental permits for waste incinerators. [8893]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency does not intend to make this a permit condition. Assessment of incinerator bottom ash to determine whether it is hazardous (including h14 ecotoxicity testing) is a requirement of the hazardous waste regulations, which apply directly to all producers of hazardous waste. There is no need to repeat the requirement within a permit application.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will direct the Environment Agency to *(a)* adopt and *(b)* document in its Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control guidance a representative sampling and testing protocol for incinerator bottom ash as part of its Best Available Techniques. [8894]

Richard Benyon: Permits for incinerators already have a condition that requires sampling and testing of incinerator bottom ash to satisfy the requirements of the waste incineration directive. This must be carried out representatively and using techniques conforming to an ash sampling protocol issued by the Environment Agency in 2001.

In light of developments in techniques, the Environment Agency is currently updating its protocol for ash sampling. This is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.

Rural Payments Agency

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Rural Payments Agency spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* public relations, *(c)* consultants, *(d)* bonuses, *(e)* entertainment and *(f)* overtime in each of the last five years. [4877]

Mr Paice: The amounts spent by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on advertising, public relations, consultants, contractors, bonuses, entertainment and overtime in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

In respect of advertising and public relations the RPA Communications Directorate, responsible for dealing with advertising and public relations, was established as a separate entity in November 2006. Unfortunately the data required to provide information for the 2006-07 financial year and earlier years are not held in a form that is easily accessible. As the extraction and collation of these data would require a considerable amount of work and incur an unacceptable cost an answer cannot be provided.

The figures shown for advertising relate to space paid for in print/online media to raise awareness of existing and new RPA managed schemes, regulatory changes and application deadlines, as well as recruitment activity during the 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years.

The figures shown for public relations encompass external public relations activity to raise awareness of RPA managed schemes, direct costs in media relations and agricultural shows during the 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years.

With effect from 2007-08 RPA does not employ consultants. From then all external resources employed to provide expert opinion, including holding interim position, are recognised and accounted for as contractors.

Entertainment figures relate to refreshments for meetings.

The bonus amounts include payments made to senior civil servants in RPA.

Financial year	*Advertising (£)*	*Public relations (£)*	*Consultants and contractor staff costs (£ million)*	*Bonuses (£000)*	*Entertainment (£)*	*Overtime (£)*
2005-06	n/a	n/a	29.5	252	81,292.58	3,865,888
2006-07	n/a	n/a	27.9	302	104,924.90	3,899,571
2007-08	101,943	150,678	23.4	452	95,021.01	3,312,792

Financial year	*Advertising (£)*	*Public relations (£)*	*Consultants and contractor staff costs (£ million)*	*Bonuses (£000)*	*Entertainment (£)*	*Overtime (£)*
2008-09	111,749	90,830	23.2	559	93,518.21	3,116,143
2009-10	164,903	94,014	25.0	513	49,734.98	2,521,496

n/a = not available

WALES

Cabinet: Wales

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on holding a future Cabinet meeting in Wales. [7009]

Mrs Gillan: The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister have committed to continuing the practice of holding Cabinet meetings outside London, and I have requested a future Cabinet is held in Wales.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information her Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [9247]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate her Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in her Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8234]

Mr David Jones: In May and June of this year the Wales Office spent £16,723 on the Government Car Service. This covers the car charges for both myself and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

Train travel charges are as follows:

		£
	May 2010	*June 2010*
Secretary of State	433.50	657.60
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	143.50	250.20

All train travel in the Wales Office is now standard class.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10121]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in her Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in her Department. [7308]

Mr David Jones: No individuals are employed specifically to write speeches for Wales Office Ministers. However, policy officials and one special adviser contribute to the drafting of speeches as part of their normal duties.

Electoral Commission

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter to her of 26 May 2010 from the Chair of the Electoral Commission. [9116]

Mrs Gillan: The letter referred to is already available on the Wales Office website at:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

following a recent Freedom of Information request. Some information has been withheld as it relates to ongoing policy development.

Private Sector: Job Creation

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of private sector jobs forecast to be created in the next five years she expects to be based in each employment sector in Wales. [8248]

Mr David Jones: The Office for Budget Responsibility has published top-level UK predictions based on macro-economic data and at present there are no sub-national figures available.

We are committed to encouraging growth in all parts of the private sector so that those left unemployed by the recession in Wales are provided with worthwhile, sustainable jobs.

We welcome the Welsh Assembly Government's Economic Renewal Programme and look forward to working with them to create a strong recovery in Wales, particularly in the six key sectors that they have identified.

Public Finance: Wales

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate she has made of the effect on the number of jobs in Wales of public spending reductions in the next five years. [8247]

Mr David Jones: All parts of the United Kingdom have to play their part in reducing the deficit we have inherited but until the comprehensive spending review is completed, the precise effect on Wales of future spending reductions cannot be known.

We remain committed to working with the Welsh Assembly Government to preserve front-line services and to protect public sector jobs wherever possible.

Referendum: Secretary of State

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's paper entitled Referendum: Role of the Secretary of State. [9115]

Mrs Gillan: The paper referred to is already available on the Wales Office website:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

following a recent Freedom of Information request. Some information has been withheld as it relates to ongoing policy development.

Referendum: Timeline

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's document entitled "Timeline: How the commitment to take forward a referendum," has been implemented. [9234]

Mrs Gillan: The document referred to is already available on the Wales Office website at:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

following a recent Freedom of Information request.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Betting Shops

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* number of licensed betting shops and *(b)* population per betting shop in each ward in each decile of the index of multiple deprivation in England. [8134]

John Penrose: The total number of licensed betting shops in England, as at 31 March 2009 was 8,862. These data are published in the Gambling Commission's industry statistics for 2008-09 and can be downloaded on their website:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/pdf/Gambling%20Industry%20Statistics%202008%202009%20-%20update%20-%20October%202009.pdf

Data regarding population per betting shop in each ward are not held centrally in this Department.

Betting Shops: Gaming Machines

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will bring forward proposals to limit the right of betting shops to operate slot machines on their premises; [8133]

(2) if he will undertake a study to assess the effects on the level of gambling addiction of permitting betting shops to operate slot machines on their premises. [8135]

John Penrose: At present the Government have no plans to reduce the limit of four gaming machines for licensed betting premises. All licensed gambling operators are subject to a range of controls through the Gambling Act 2005, which include access to gaming machines, limits on stake and prize and the number of machines that can be offered.

All operators must comply with the Gambling Commission's Licence Conditions and Code of Practice, which include specific provisions in relation to underage and problem gambling, access, staff training and self-exclusion. In addition all gaming machines licensed in gambling premises must comply with the Commission's gaming machine technical standards and gaming machine testing strategy.

The Government are aware of concerns regarding higher-stake, higher-prize gaming machines and levels of problem gambling in Great Britain. In the last two years the Commission has undertaken research into a range of issues associated with these types of machines and published several independent reports. These are available on the Commission's website:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/research__consultations/research/research_programme/gaming_machines_research_progr.aspx

Building on the Commission's work, the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board is taking forward a research programme on higher stake higher prize gaming machines as one of its initial priorities and is expected to publish further details of that programme later this year.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the last 12 months; [8784]

(2) how much his Department spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in the last 12 months; [8785]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the number of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in maintaining social media and networking sites; and what estimate he has made of the cost of employing such people in the last 12 months; [8798]

(4) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in the last 12 months. [8803]

John Penrose: This Department does not have any full-time staff committed to maintaining social media and networking sites.

In addition, we have incurred no costs maintaining the social networks listed. The sites are supported as part of normal communications work with no more than 10% of a full-time employees' time spent on this work.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8237]

John Penrose: The total amount spent by the Department during May 2010 and June 2010 on all domestic and foreign travel by Ministers in their official capacity is set out in the table:

Minister	*Month*	*Estimated spend (£)*
Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport	May 2010	245.07
	June 2010	2,614.05
Ministerial Team	May 2010	485.38
	June 2010	2,133.76

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8332]

John Penrose: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport on 13 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 624W.

Digital Broadcasting: Northern Ireland

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects digital switchover to take place in Northern Ireland. [9508]

Mr Vaizey: It is planned that digital switchover in Northern Ireland will take place in the second half of 2012.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policy on digital radio switchover of the sound quality provided by the current DAB digital radio standard compared to that provided by the FM signal. [9159]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have no current plans to make an assessment of the sound quality of digital radio, provided by Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB), compared to analogue radio provided on the FM band. However, we note that independent research conducted in 2009 suggested that around 75% of digital radio listeners consider the sound quality on DAB to be as good as, if not better than, FM.

Drama: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps is his Department is taking to increase levels of participation among young people in *(a)* drama and *(b)* acting. [8778]

Mr Vaizey: The Arts Council's regular funding supports organisations that work to increase the participation of young people in theatre, such as the National Association of Youth Theatres, the National Student Drama Festival, Company of Angels and Burnley Youth Theatre.

The Arts Council also manages educational projects which engage young people in the arts, including theatre.

The 'Artsmark' programme encourages schools to increase the range, quantity and type of arts that are provided to children. Currently 18.6% of schools hold an Artsmark award.

'Arts Award' is a national qualification which supports young people to develop as artists and arts leaders. Young people can work towards Arts Awards within, outside, and beyond school and college. Since its launch in 2005, 28,797 young people have achieved Arts Awards.

Libraries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many public libraries there were in each year since 1997. [8802]

Mr Vaizey: The number of public libraries there were each year since 1997 can be seen in the table:

Libraries open

	Number
1997-98	3,689
1998-99	3,654
1999-2000	3,633
2000-01	3,627
2001-02	3,619
2002-03	3,601
2003-04	3,604
2004-05	3,570
2005-06	3,573
2006-07	3,580
2007-08	3,565
2008-09	3,542

Data showing the number of public library service points in England are published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in their annual Public Library Statistics. Copies of the CIPFA Public Library Statistics are available in the House Libraries.

Museums

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many times a Minister from his Department has visited the *(a)* British Museum, *(b)* Natural History Museum and *(c)* Science Museum in the last 12 months. [8787]

Mr Vaizey: Since the current Administration's tenure, I have visited the British Museum on two occasions. My hon. Friend the Minister for Tourism and Heritage has attended one event hosted there. These visits were in an official capacity.

National Lottery

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he proposes to restrict the Big Lottery Fund to the provision of funding to community and voluntary groups only. [9478]

John Penrose: We are taking steps to focus the Big Lottery Fund's funding towards the voluntary and community sector and will shortly be consulting on proposals for this.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what Olympic construction contracts of what monetary value have been awarded to companies based *(a)* in Scotland, *(b)* in Wales, *(c)* in Northern Ireland, *(d)* in England and *(e)* outside the UK; [8680]

(2) what recent estimate the Olympic Delivery Authority has made of the number of new contracts remaining to be let in respect of the London 2012 Olympics; and what estimate has been made of the monetary value of those contracts. [8681]

Hugh Robertson: The aggregate value of contracts directly awarded by the ODA to businesses as at July 2010 is as follows:

(a) Scotland: £22,200,816

(b) Wales: £573,678

(c) Northern Ireland: £17,094,646

(d) England: £5,073,551,658

(e) Outside the UK: £12,039,243.

The location of each business is determined by its registered address. These figures represent the sums that the ODA has committed up to the 14 July 2010. These values represent the sums that the ODA has spent to date, rather than the end contract value, as the end contract value in many cases will not yet be known.

The figures given only account for the contracts awarded to the top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors rather than by the ODA. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains. Examples of businesses from across the UK that are supplying the ODA's contractors is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

http://www.london2012.com/business

The ODA estimates that it has approximately 140 remaining contracts to let, covering remaining requirements on the Olympic Park, transport, and ODA corporate requirements. The estimated value of the remaining contracts is approximately £275 million. The remainder of the ODA's budget is allocated to transport projects being delivered with other partners, security and ODA operational costs.

Olympic Games 2012: Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what bonuses have been paid to *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors working on the Olympic Park construction project in the last six months. [8679]

Hugh Robertson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) In order for the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to achieve or exceed specific time and cost-based targets incentive payments are made to its delivery partner CLM for the achievement of key performance indicators for the delivery of programme milestones and cost targets. The amounts payable to CLM over the last year in respect of performance will be disclosed in the upcoming ODA's Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10, a copy of which will be available in the House Library, while amounts for previous years are available in the Annual Reports and Accounts from the relevant year.

(b) The ODA incentivises contractors on the Olympic Park to deliver on time and on budget. Incentive payments have therefore been included as part of the contracting process. Payments for the last six months consist of the following:

Company	*Project*	*Amount (£ million)*
Carillion	IBC/MPC	2.556
Lend Lease	Olympic Village	6.857
Balfour Beatty	Aquatics	0.587
ISG	VeloDrome	0.117

Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what London 2012 Olympics cultural legacy projects are planned for the *(a)* West Midlands and *(b)* Black Country. [8220]

Hugh Robertson: The Cultural Olympiad comprises cultural events in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games. These events aim to leave a cultural legacy and include major national projects, annual open weekends and individual projects that have been awarded the Inspire Mark.

As elsewhere in the UK, Cultural Olympiad events will bring communities in the West Midlands together, allowing local people to access activities they may never have experienced before leading to a broader interest and participation in cultural pursuits that will extend beyond 2012.

In the West Midlands 25 cultural projects have been awarded the Inspire Mark. These have included a mass dance event at Himley Park, Dudley. The West Midlands has secured £2.2 million from the Legacy Trust to programmes in the region, bringing people together for community activities of all kinds. Dance projects in the region, such as Boys Dancing, StreetCheer and Bollywood Steps have been funded by the Legacy Trust.

Open Weekend 2010 will take place over 23-25 July. So far, 44 cultural and sports events have been registered in West Midlands overall.

Some of the Cultural Olympiad Major National Projects include a regional component:

"Artists Taking the Lead" features cutting edge art works in each region. In the West Midlands this work is Godiva Awakes by Imagineer Productions, the recreation of Lady Godiva as a 10 metre high puppet which will journey from Coventry to London.

"Stories of the World" is a UK wide series of exhibitions featuring collections reinterpreted by young people, local communities, historians, artists and other fresh voices. In the West Midlands the exhibition is Style Africa, exploring the fabrics of Africa and based around Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's West African textiles and dress collection.

A further major national project, to be launched to coincide with Open Weekend 2010, is Discovering Places which will encourage people to learn about and engage with the UK's built, natural and historic environments. These include events to celebrate the Black Country's chain making tradition (Making Links) and the lives of the people of the area (History in the Headstones).

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Greater London

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has taken steps to examine the feasibility of establishing an airport in the Thames Estuary. [8811]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The Department for Transport has not made any recent assessment of the merits of a new airport in the Thames Estuary. This is not an option the Government are considering.

Our priority is to make efficient use of existing airport infrastructure in the south-east, which is why I am chairing the taskforce announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in his written ministerial statement on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 48WS, to improve operations at the major south-east airports.

Aviation: Volcanoes

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on discussions at EU level on proposals for compensating airlines for costs incurred as a result of volcanic ash. [4986]

Mrs Villiers: At the EU Transport Council held in Luxembourg on 24 June, member states discussed the range of initiatives undertaken in response to the air traffic disruptions taken as a result of the volcanic ash cloud in April. At the meeting, the European Commission confirmed that no member state had made a formal request for state aid clearance for financial assistance to airlines or other companies affected by the disruptions, nor had any draft proposals been presented to the Commission. In a written report to the meeting, the Commission also said that no EU funding was available for this purpose. The Secretary of State for Transport made a written statement to Parliament on the outcome of the Council meeting on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 50-52WS.

Birmingham International Airport

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that are likely to be created by the planned expansion of Birmingham International Airport; [8271]

(2) what recent representations he has received from *(a)* local businesses and *(b)* local authorities on plans for the expansion of Birmingham International Airport. [8272]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport has not made any estimate of the number of jobs that are likely to be created by the planned expansion of Birmingham International Airport, nor has he received any representations from local businesses or local authorities on the plans for the expansion of the airport.

British Airways: Industrial Disputes

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* BA and *(b)* Unite on the current industrial dispute at BA. [4985]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State held separate meetings to discuss the dispute with the chief executive of British Airways and with the Joint General Secretary of Unite on 17 May and has subsequently had a number of informal follow-up discussions by telephone and at meetings convened for other purposes. He has consistently urged both parties to settle their differences as quickly as possible, in the interest of the travelling public.

Buckshaw Village Railway Station

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when Buckshaw Village railway station will be operational; and if he will make a statement. [7841]

Mrs Villiers: A revised planning application has been submitted for the station. If this is successful, contracts could be awarded for construction in August 2010.

Network Rail estimates that the new station could be operational in autumn 2011.

Crossrail

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Crossrail services per hour will operate at peak times in both directions between Whitechapel and Paddington when the line is complete. [6575]

Mrs Villiers: The Crossrail programme provides for 24 trains per hour in each direction during peak hours over the central section on completion of project.

Crossrail: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on the timetable for the Crossrail project of planned expenditure savings in his Department. [8113]

Mrs Villiers: The Government support Crossrail, which will bring substantial benefits to London and the UK. No decisions have been taken to change the schedule of the project.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects savings under each budget heading to be made in relation to the Crossrail project; and if he will make a statement. [8114]

Mrs Villiers: The Government support Crossrail, which will bring substantial benefits to London and the UK. No decisions have been taken to change the scope of the project.

Crossrail Ltd continue to explore and pursue opportunities for reducing costs through value engineering and value management, as well as pursuing rigorous risk management and good procurement practice. This work has not yet been completed and so total potential savings have yet to be fully quantified.

Crossrail: Railway Stations

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether new Crossrail stations will be constructed at *(a)* Paddington, *(b)* Bond Street, *(c)* Tottenham Court Road, *(d)* Farringdon, *(e)* Liverpool Street, *(f)* Whitechapel and *(g)* Woolwich; and what recent discussions he has had with contractors and designers over changes in design of each of those stations. [6573]

Mrs Villiers: The planned Crossrail route includes construction of stations at all of these locations. Station design discussions are continuing between Crossrail Ltd, their designers, and relevant stakeholders. The Secretary of State has not had discussions with contractors or designers but would expect to receive regular reports from Crossrail Ltd as design options are firmed up.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Canary Wharf Group on changes in design of the proposed Isle of Dogs/Canary Wharf Crossrail station; and what alterations to the design and features of the station have been made as a result. [6574]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State met with Canary Wharf Group and visited the construction site of the Crossrail Canary Wharf station on 15 June 2010. Previous changes to the design of the station were discussed at the meeting but no decisions were taken to alter the design and features as a result.

Cycling: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many children aged *(a)* 11 years and under, *(b)* 15 years and under and *(c)* 16 years and under (i) received serious head injuries and (ii) died as a result of accidents involving bicycles in (A) 2009 and (B) the first quarter of 2010. [9685]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport collates information on the number of people killed, seriously injured or slightly injured in reported personal injury road accidents. However, information on the nature of the injury is not collected by the Department, but is available from the national health service information centre.

The latest year for which data are available is 2009. 2010 road accident and casualty figures will be published in summer 2011.

The number of casualties, in the age groups 0-11, 0-15 and 0-16, killed or seriously injured in reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedal cycle in 2009 is shown in the following table.

Reported casualties in personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedal cycle, by road user type and casualty age-group: GB 2009

	Pedal cyclist			Other road users[1]		
Age of Casualty	*Killed*	*Seriously injured*	*KSI*[2]	*Killed*	*Seriously injured*	*KSI*[2]
0-11 years old	5	173	178	1	5	6
0-15 years old	14	444	458	1	9	10
0-16 years old	16	489	505	1	10	11

[1] Includes pedestrians and occupants of vehicles other than pedal cycles.
[2] Killed or seriously injured.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7481]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport spent £16,795 on its corporate identity when it was formed following machinery of government changes in 2002-03. The logo has not changed since. Costs for other years, agencies and non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 50-2WS, on the EU Transport Council, what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on his request for a review of EU Regulation 261/2004 on passenger rights; and if he will make a statement. [7520]

Mrs Villiers: My right hon. Friend has had preliminary discussions with some of his EU counterparts both bilaterally and at the Transport Council on 24 June. The UK supports Regulation 261/2004, which has protected passengers' interests and raised airlines' standards of service. However, it has changed radically and unexpectedly as a result of a European Court of Justice ruling last November in relation to flight delays, to the possible detriment of both passengers and industry. Given that the Commission is already looking at the regulation, as part of the work following the volcanic ash crisis, the UK is asking them to include this issue within the scope of the review.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 50-2WS, on the EU Transport Council, what representations he has *(a)* received and *(b)* sought from (i) consumer groups, (ii) air passenger groups and (iii) airlines prior to or following his request to the European Commission for review of EU Regulation 261/2004 on passenger rights; and if he will make a statement. [7521]

Mrs Villiers: The European Commission announced in May that, following the volcanic ash crisis, it was looking again at EU Regulation 261/2004. The UK supports Regulation 261/2004, which has protected passengers' interests and raised airlines' standards of service. However, as part of the Commission's review process, the UK has asked that it also look at one specific aspect of the regulation, relating to flight delays, which changed radically as a result of a European Court of Justice ruling last November. The Government have received several representations from airlines about the effects of this ruling, which could bring detriment to customers as well as high costs for industry. The Commission's review will be of interest to passengers and airlines alike.

London Airports

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the case for additional airport capacity in south east England; [4972]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of proposals for a new airport in the Thames Estuary. [4974]

Mrs Villiers: Our priority is to get the most out of existing airport infrastructure in the south-east, which is why I shall be chairing the taskforce announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in his written ministerial statement on 15 June 2010, *Official Record*, column 48WS, to improve operations at the major south-east airports.

The Department for Transport has not made any recent assessment of the merits of a new airport in the Thames Estuary. This is not an option the Government are considering.

London and South Eastern Railway: Finance

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much public funding has been allocated to Southeastern Railway since it took over the Kent Integrated Franchise. [6352]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport publishes subsidy details for Southeastern (The Integrated Kent Franchise) on its website, which can be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/franchises/franchisepaymentprofiles

The Office of Rail Regulation publishes actual subsidy payments in its 'National Rail Trends' document (table 6.2c), which is available on its website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

for the current version, and

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1528

for versions back to 2005-06.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding has been granted to Southeastern Railway under the National Station Improvement Programme in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [6353]

Mrs Villiers: The Local Delivery Group responsible for the Southeastern portfolio of stations was allocated £14.3 million of the first £100 million of funding from the National Stations Improvement Programme. Network Rail advises that £960,859, £5,365,053 and £602,271 of this funding was spent on improvement schemes at Southeastern stations in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively.

London-Birmingham Railway Line

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations he has received on the proposed high speed rail link between London and Birmingham; [4284]

(2) what representations he has received on the proposed high speed rail link between London and Birmingham from residents or organisations in Coventry. [4285]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 28 June 2010]*: The Department for Transport has received representations from a range of interested parties, including; business groups, those affected by High Speed 2 Limited's recommended line of route, local and regional government, and environmental groups. None of the representations received was from residents or organisations in Coventry.

Network Rail: Pay

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish each item of correspondence between his Department and Network Rail on executive pay at Network Rail since his appointment. [4984]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport wrote to Rick Haythornthwaite, chairman of Network Rail, on 28 May, emphasising the need for restraint on executive pay. This letter can be found online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/letters/networkrail20100528.pdf

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

As the Special Member of Network Rail, the Secretary of State also receives a number of letters from Network Rail's directors, which are sent to all members. Since the formation of the current Government, there have been two such letters which have referred to executive bonuses. Copies of these letters have been placed in the House Library.

Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research his Department has undertaken into the effects of level of use of the rail network on non-rail users. [6889]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has analysed the benefits of rail use to non-rail users using the National Transport Model—by estimating the external costs to society avoided, including congestion, accidents and emissions, if car users switch to rail. The estimates this analysis produced led to the publication of guidance for those carrying out economic appraisals of rail schemes: "TAG unit 3.13.2: Guidance on Rail Appraisal: External Costs of Car Use". This guidance unit is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/expert/unit3.13.2.php#022

Railways: Bury

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress he has made on the Bury to Rawtenstall rail extension project. [9161]

Mrs Villiers: The Bury to Rawtenstall rail extension project is being promoted by Rossendale borough council in partnership with Lancashire county council, Bury council, Rochdale metropolitan borough council and Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE). GMPTE has commissioned a study from Atkins to look at public transport on the A56-M66 corridor between Bury and East Lancashire which includes the reinstatement of commuter services between Rawtenstall and Manchester as an option. This study is due to be completed in October 2010.

Railways: East Anglia

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 58WS, on "Transport: Rail Franchising," (1) when he expects the competition process for the Greater Anglia franchise to *(a)* open and *(b)* close; [8903]

(2) when he expects the new Greater Anglia franchise to be operational. [8904]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is currently in the process of reviewing rail franchising policy. To enable the Greater Anglia franchise to reflect the changes that may arise from the review of this policy, the competitions that started in January this year have been cancelled. It is expected that the new competition process will be advertised by the end of this year. There is no set period between issuing such an advert and franchise commencement, however typically invitations to tender have been issued around a year before the franchise start date.

Railways: Fares

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward measures to hypothecate annual increases in rail fares above the level of the retail price index plus one per cent. for capital investment in rail or in new rolling stock and other investment purposes; and if he will make a statement. [6576]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to fairness on rail fares. We hope to be able to keep the current formula for the cap on regulated fares, but we need to wait until further work has been done on the spending settlement before making a final decision on the fare formula for next year.

Railways: Freight

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the contribution of levels of use of rail freight to the economy. [6890]

Mrs Villiers: No recent assessment has been made. However, the economic value of rail freight was considered by Skills for Logistics in 2008, which estimated that the freight and logistics sector as a whole is worth around £74.5 billion to the economy.

Transport: Forecasts

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress he has made on his plans to revise the New Approach to Transport Appraisal; and what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* timetable are for that review; [6999]

(2) whether transport schemes approved for progression during the Comprehensive Spending Review will be reappraised using the revised New Approach to Transport Appraisal before they receive final approval. [7000]

Norman Baker: During the Spending Review decision-making will be informed by updated carbon values and a Treasury methodology being used by all departments to assess value for money in a consistent way. We intend to introduce reformed decision-making procedures for new projects as soon as possible after the Spending Review. At that point, projects seeking final approval will be expected to adhere to the new procedures.

Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on Wales of his Department's planned spending reductions. [8986]

Mr Philip Hammond: As part of the spending review I will be reviewing the regional impacts of all spending decisions made by my Department, in line with Her Majesty's Treasury guidance. However, as transport is a devolved function, the impact of any reductions in spending in Wales as a result of Barnett consequentials will be determined by the Welsh Assembly Government.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Detainees

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 175-78, on the treatment of detainees, from which departmental budget any sums paid in compensation to those bringing civil cases against the Crown involving the treatment of detainees will be drawn. [8335]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* Formal mediation has not yet begun and at this stage we do not know what the outcome will be. It would therefore be inappropriate to comment any further on the details of any potential payments.

Crime: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission a report from the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis on the number and location of anti-Semitic incidents in London since December 2008; and if she will make a statement. [8576]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is committed to tackling all hate crime. Data on anti-Semitic hate crime are collected by the Metropolitan police and provided to the Association of Chief Police Officers National Community Tension Team to ensure that current threats are closely monitored. We have no plans to commission a separate report from the Metropolitan Commissioner on this issue.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7486]

Nick Herbert: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Spend incurred for logo design is not always itemised and invoiced separately on the Cabinet Office Resource Accounting System. Therefore, to determine conclusively the Department's spend on logo development would require an analysis of every transaction undertaken during the period in question and would mean manually checking thousands of individual invoices.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7969]

Nick Herbert: Since the new coalition Government came into effect on 11 May 2010, the Home Office has spent £22,027 on the Government Car Service.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £367 million of savings allocated to her Department will be made. [6830]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office and Government Equalities Office contributed £367 million in 2010-11 to the £6 billion in-year cross-Government savings announced by the Chancellor on 26 May 2010.

Police funding for 2010-11 was reduced by a total of £135 million, of which £125 million was comprised of reductions to the core police grant and police capital grant, as set out in the written ministerial statement laid before the House on 27 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 12-16WS. A further £10 million reduction was made from policing counter-terrorism grants.

Some £82 million of the savings were made from the Department's agencies and arm's length bodies, as well as the Government Equalities Office. I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle (Alan Johnson) on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 508-09W.

A further £139 million is accounted for by:

a £30 million reduction to the Home Office crime and policing budget, including some grants;

a £69 million reduction to the budget of the UK Border Agency;

a further £13 million reduction to the Identity and Passport Service budget;

a £13 million reduction to the Home Office corporate services budget; and a

£14 million reduction to the security and counter-terrorism budget.

Within these headline numbers the Department is targeting its overheads, consultancy and lower value spend.

The remaining £11 million savings will be managed through the usual in-year budget management processes within the Department.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, Official Report, columns 1-2WS, on spending control, under what budget headings the £55 million of savings allocated to her Department will be made; and what savings will be made in respect of each police authority area. [7211]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The Treasury has confirmed that the Home Office should expect to receive half of the £110 million of capital end year flexibility upon which its capital plans for 2010-11 were based. This means that reductions of around £55 million will need to be made in-year. This will be achieved by bearing down on costs across a range of Home Office programmes and projects. There are no cuts planned to police capital funding.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee away days in each year since 1997. [7322]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on staff away days. The relevant expenditure is compartmentalised within separate accounting codes and would therefore require an investigation of every separate claim for the period in question. To provide the requested detail would incur disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on away days is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee training in each year since 1997. [7652]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Detainees

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 175-78, on the treatment of detainees, if she will make it her policy to require that requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for disclosure of compensation paid in resolving outstanding civil cases are not declined on grounds of statutory exemption. [8336]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* Mediation is a confidential process and the question of whether any elements are made public is for agreement by both parties. I can however confirm that the exemptions provided for in the Freedom of Information Act would have to be considered before any response could be given.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the oral statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 175-78, on the treatment of detainees, if she will disclose to *(a)* the Intelligence and Security Committee, *(b)* the National Audit Office and *(c)* the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation details of the compensation to be paid in resolution of any civil cases involving the treatment of detainees; [8333]

(2) if she will make it her policy to publish figures for *(a)* the number of mediated civil cases where compensation is paid and *(b)* the total amount of compensation so paid. [8334]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* Formal mediation has not yet begun and at this stage we do not know what the outcome will be. The Prime Minister has said that where appropriate financial compensation will be awarded. However, mediation is a confidential process and the question of whether any elements are made public is for agreement by both parties. It would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

EC Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of the statutory obligations on it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [6334]

James Brokenshire: Over the last 12 months (July 2009 to June 2010), the Home Office has introduced a small number of domestic legislative measures (primary and secondary) implementing in whole or in part statutory obligations arising from EU legislation.

Eight of these have resulted in minimal costs to the Home Office beyond those integral to the planning, drafting and production of these measures for which figures are not available. Of the remaining two measures:

The Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2009 enables the UK to move towards complying with EC Regulation 380/2008, which concerns the format of residence permits issued to third country nationals and specifically enabled the UK to roll out biometric residence cards to migrants extending their stay under tier 2 of the PBS (skilled workers). As a proportion of the overall start-up costs for Biometric Residence Permits, £2.6 million was apportioned to the rollout of cards to these migrants. The average annual maintenance cost is £2.1 million which is recovered through application fees.

On 23 December 2009, benzylpiperazine was brought under control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as a Class C drug pursuant to European Council Decision 2005/387/JHA in relation to new psychoactive substances. No figures are available in relation to the cost to the Department. An impact assessment (IA) laid with the draft Order established that it was not possible at that time to estimate the costs associated with law change. The IA is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100418065544/
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/
regulatory-impact-assessments/

Firearms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many guns have been seized by the police in each year since 1997. [8824]

James Brokenshire: These data are not collected centrally.

Offences Against Children

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what extent the police has used the European Criminal Records Information system in *(a)* locating and *(b)* bringing charges against British citizens who have committed sexual crimes against children overseas. [9009]

Lynne Featherstone: The European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) is a secure computerised exchange system, using a standardised format so that individual member states are able to exchange criminal conviction information in a uniform, electronic and easily computer translatable way. It is due to be implemented by all member states in April 2012. As the information exchanged through ECRIS will only be existing criminal convictions it will not be possible to use it to locate and bring charges against British citizens who have committed sexual crimes against children overseas.

The United Kingdom already receives criminal conviction notifications from the majority of EU countries. An offender will be placed on the Violent and Sexual Offenders Register (VISOR) if the offence abroad is one that would have resulted in him being placed on VISOR if it had occurred in the UK. There are currently 499 offenders on VISOR as a result of offences committed abroad.

Offences Against Children: Prosecutions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions there were under section 72 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 for sexual crimes committed against children outside the UK in each year since the Act came into force; and whether her Department has made an assessment of the length of the sentences given in relation to the maximum available sentence. [8563]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice contains information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in a statute, statistical information available centrally does not include the circumstances of each case and does not identify where the offence was committed. Therefore it is not possible to separately identify those defendants proceeded against who committed the offence while abroad.

No internal assessment of sentencing under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 has been made. However, the Sentencing Guidelines Council published definitive guideline on sentencing under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 on 30 April 2007 that addresses appropriate levels of sentencing in relation to the maximum sentences. I will place a copy of these guidelines in the Library.

Offensive Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people stopped by the police on suspicion of carrying a knife were subsequently *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted in each of the last five years. [8792]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not held centrally.

Data on the number of persons stopped and searched, and resultant arrests for offensive weapons under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 do not separately identify searches for knives.

Information on the number of stop searches and resultant arrests for offensive weapons can be found in tables 2a and 2b of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales 2008/09'. Copies of the bulletin are available in the Library of the House.

These data do not link to any subsequent outcome therefore it is not possible to identify the number of convictions for possession of a knife in public arising directly from these stop and search procedures.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been seized by the police in each year since 1997. [8808]

James Brokenshire: The requested data are not held centrally.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegally-held and *(b)* air weapons were seized by police in each year since 1997. [8827]

James Brokenshire: These data are not collected centrally.

Pakistan: Torture

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the government of Pakistan has spent on the protection of General Musharraf provided by her Department while in the United Kingdom in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [7018]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not comment on the protective security arrangements and their related costs of any individuals or groups. The hon. Member will appreciate that disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and the security of those involved.

Police

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police warrant cards have been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each year since 1997. [8797]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Police: Dismissal

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were dismissed from each police force between 1997 and 2010. [8887]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the following table. Data are only available for 2002-03 to 2008-09.

Police officer dismissals by police force (full-time equivalent)[1], 2002-03 to 2008-09[2]

Full-time equivalent

Force name	*2002-03[3]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	1	3	5	4	1	1	3
Bedfordshire	2	0	4	0	5	1	3
Cambridgeshire	4	2	4	2	1	4	0
Cheshire	2	0	2	3	4	3	2
Cleveland	5	3	4	3	0	2	3
Cumbria	2	1	0	2	0	1	1
Derbyshire	4	3	0	3	5	4	4
Devon and Cornwall	7	3	3	0	4	2	2
Dorset	2	1	3	3	3	2	2
Durham	0	1	1	1	0	1	2
Essex	n/a	3	2	9	5	1	4
Gloucestershire	n/a	2	0	2	2	0	1
Greater Manchester	3	11	5	21	6	8	7
Hampshire	3	6	5	6	1	5	4
Hertfordshire	3	4	2	2	2	4	5
Humberside	1	3	0	4	2	2	2
Kent	0	1	0	3	1	4	2
Lancashire	6	5	2	3	6	8	6
Leicestershire	0	1	1	3	2	7	2

Police officer dismissals by police force (full-time equivalent)[1], 2002-03 to 2008-09[2]

Force name	*2002-03[3]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Full-time equivalent* *2008-09*
Lincolnshire	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
London, City of	1	0	1	0	1	2	0
Merseyside	3	7	9	10	1	13	10
Metropolitan Police	19	22	32	28	31	23	19
Norfolk	1	1	2	1	1	1	5
Northamptonshire	0	2	0	1	3	2	4
Northumbria	3	6	2	2	8	9	4
North Yorkshire	0	3	0	2	0	2	2
Nottinghamshire	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
South Yorkshire	3	1	0	4	0	0	1
Staffordshire	1	6	3	2	6	8	1
Suffolk	1	2	3	4	2	2	2
Surrey	0	7	2	5	10	5	4
Sussex	0	6	2	5	5	1	2
Thames Valley	4	1	1	8	5	4	8
Warwickshire	1	2	2	2	0	1	1
West Mercia	0	4	2	4	1	0	1
West Midlands	11	4	18	8	26	16	8
West Yorkshire	6	6	2	5	3	8	6
Wiltshire	3	0	1	0	1	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	1	1	1	3	0	3	3
Gwent	1	0	2	3	1	6	2
North Wales	0	0	1	3	1	0	0
South Wales	3	4	3	3	1	2	2
Total	108	140	133	178	161	170	141

n/a = Data not available

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items. Data have not previously been published in this format therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Comparable data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[3] Excludes quarters 1, 2 and 3, as data are not available.

Police: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of funding for the employment of police officers in 2010-11 is provided by *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local authorities. [8122]

Nick Herbert: In 2010-11, central Government funding to the police service in England and Wales is around £9.6 billion. A further £3.2 billion is raised through the police precept component of council tax and police forces also generate a smaller amount of income for themselves, for example by charging event organisers for policing.

Police: Firearms

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to collate figures on the annual number of negligent discharges from police firearms in England and Wales. [8816]

Nick Herbert: There are no current plans for the Home Office to collect data or figures on the number of negligent discharges from authorised police firearms officers in England and Wales. This information may be obtained directly from individual chief officers.

Police: Manpower

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police authority area (i) on the latest date for which figures are available and (ii) in each of the last 13 years; and what estimate she has made of the likely number of police officers in each such area in each of the next four years. [8849]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 July 2010]*: The available data are provided in the following tables.

The estimate of the likely number of police officers and police officers in each of the next four years is not available centrally. These decisions are made by the Chief Constable and the Police Authority.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2009

				31 March each year			
Police force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[3]*	*2002*	*2003*
Avon and Somerset	2,989	2,976	2,999	2,934	2,960	3,096	3,149
Bedfordshire	1,094	1,079	1,041	1,028	1,036	1,069	1,106
Cambridgeshire	1,302	1,291	1,274	1,237	1,296	1,362	1,384

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2009

Police force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[3]*	*2002*	*2003*
			31 March each year				
Cheshire	2,046	2,042	2,071	2,011	2,002	2,059	2,119
Cleveland	1,459	1,483	1,416	1,404	1,407	1,461	1,582
Cumbria	1,144	1,164	1,126	1,084	1,048	1,100	1,140
Derbyshire	1,791	1,772	1,759	1,777	1,823	1,848	2,003
Devon and Cornwall	2,865	2,962	2,887	2,841	2,934	3,053	3,202
Dorset	1,284	1,310	1,279	1,306	1,354	1,381	1,416
Durham	1,461	1,515	1,568	1,558	1,595	1,614	1,651
Essex	2,961	2,928	2,891	2,806	2,887	2,946	2,989
Gloucestershire	1,133	1,104	1,104	1,114	1,173	1,183	1,227
Greater Manchester	6,922	6,949	6,810	6,795	6,909	7,217	7,343
Hampshire	3,452	3,490	3,473	3,419	3,435	3,480	3,668
Hertfordshire	1,759	1,740	1,724	1,767	1,922	1,825	1,957
Humberside	2,045	2,021	1,974	1,932	1,917	2,058	2,105
Kent	3,260	3,251	3,201	3,204	3,319	3,355	3,487
Lancashire	3,247	3,257	3,245	3,179	3,255	3,304	3,339
Leicestershire	1,949	1,983	1,993	1,993	2,033	2,100	2,114
Lincolnshire	1,196	1,191	1,140	1,115	1,202	1,198	1,221
London, City of	859	825	778	732	703	764	808
Merseyside	4,230	4,216	4,211	4,085	4,081	4,125	4,099
Metropolitan Police	26,677	26,094	26,073	25,485	24,878	26,223	27,984
Norfolk	1,432	1,430	1,381	1,381	1,420	1,468	1,499
Northamptonshire	1,177	1,169	1,137	1,117	1,157	1,214	1,210
Northumbria	3,677	3,700	3,840	3,788	3,857	3,929	3,943
North Yorkshire	1,338	1,367	1,337	1,283	1,305	1,417	1,444
Nottinghamshire	2,323	2,325	2,225	2,204	2,212	2,330	2,411
South Yorkshire	3,159	3,182	3,168	3,163	3,197	3,199	3,183
Staffordshire	2,211	2,292	2,238	2,170	2,129	2,133	2,202
Suffolk	1,180	1,186	1,190	1,145	1,133	1,203	1,253
Surrey	1,620	1,608	1,662	1,785	2,066	1,992	1,906
Sussex	3,085	2,996	2,847	2,822	2,855	2,893	2,989
Thames Valley	3,695	3,736	3,748	3,740	3,703	3,762	3,833
Warwickshire	926	924	908	900	926	969	997
West Mercia	2,040	2,010	2,025	1,887	1,951	2,018	2,256
West Midlands	7,113	7,156	7,321	7,194	7,423	7,681	7,751
West Yorkshire	5,200	5,155	4,982	4,822	4,815	4,889	5,029
Wiltshire	1,154	1,156	1,151	1,118	1,120	1,157	1,158
Dyfed-Powys	1,005	1,002	1,026	1,040	1,055	1,132	1,149
Gwent	1,243	1,233	1,247	1,264	1,274	1,333	1,341
North Wales	1,360	1,386	1,391	1,403	1,444	1,506	1,539
South Wales	2,976	2,986	2,981	2,926	3,100	3,222	3,239
Total England and Wales	125,051	124,756	123,841	121,956	123,313	127,267	131,426

Police force	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
			31 March each year			
Avon and Somerset	3,401	3,384	3,389	3,375	3,339	3,303
Bedfordshire	1,181	1,215	1,198	1,185	1,174	1,219
Cambridgeshire	1,400	1,402	1,430	1,381	1,358	1,414
Cheshire	2,177	2,186	2,174	2,192	2,124	2,123
Cleveland	1,687	1,676	1,677	1,713	1,663	1,756
Cumbria	1,222	1,232	1,230	1,244	1,228	1,257
Derbyshire	2,070	2,070	2,046	2,023	2,076	2,119
Devon and Cornwall	3,283	3,369	3,493	3,476	3,486	3,518
Dorset	1,433	1,450	1,485	1,492	1,482	1,463
Durham	1,685	1,718	1,699	1,683	1,605	1,566
Essex	3,098	3,190	3,279	3,297	3,346	3,454
Gloucestershire	1,284	1,291	1,289	1,303	1,338	1,370
Greater Manchester	8,042	8,041	7,959	7,887	7,931	8,124
Hampshire	3,706	3,725	3,707	3,796	3,807	3,700
Hertfordshire	2,086	2,104	2,126	2,159	2,137	2,117
Humberside	2,213	2,230	2,224	2,227	2,216	2,078

	31 March each year					
Police force	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Kent	3,576	3,586	3,509	3,664	3,644	3,716
Lancashire	3,550	3,551	3,583	3,566	3,609	3,653
Leicestershire	2,277	2,283	2,250	2,225	2,212	2,338
Lincolnshire	1,228	1,221	1,213	1,221	1,178	1,204
London, City of	853	876	869	854	817	804
Merseyside	4,122	4,317	4,269	4,413	4,449	4,462
Metropolitan Police	29,735	30,710	30,536	30,710	31,014	32,121
Norfolk	1,510	1,544	1,557	1,565	1,526	1,644
Northamptonshire	1,239	1,267	1,317	1,281	1,264	1,301
Northumbria	4,040	4,048	3,983	3,917	3,928	4,028
North Yorkshire	1,529	1,543	1,636	1,654	1,560	1,435
Nottinghamshire	2,484	2,502	2,477	2,410	2,334	2,380
South Yorkshire	3,279	3,265	3,255	3,254	3,172	3,017
Staffordshire	2,266	2,280	2,272	2,288	2,229	2,189
Suffolk	1,304	1,313	1,300	1,342	1,308	1,280
Surrey	1,913	1,915	1,922	1,914	1,904	1,824
Sussex	3,039	3,044	3,092	3,077	3,032	3,163
Thames Valley	4,034	4,114	4,229	4,197	4,112	4,251
Warwickshire	1,008	1,011	1,032	1,059	1,017	975
West Mercia	2,355	2,367	2,351	2,400	2,433	2,436
West Midlands	7,887	8,056	8,097	8,173	8,315	8,559
West Yorkshire	5,275	5,631	5,644	5,655	5,744	5,787
Wiltshire	1,217	1,222	1,219	1,204	1,202	1,212
Dyfed-Powys	1,160	1,174	1,182	1,177	1,181	1,176
Gwent	1,372	1,438	1,467	1,493	1,474	1,432
North Wales	1,603	1,652	1,617	1,591	1,566	1,578
South Wales	3,279	3,281	3,263	3,297	3,194	3,103
Total England and Wales	137,105	139,495	139,633	140,032	139,728	141,647

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items

[2] Prior to 2002-03, figures excluded officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore for comparative purposes, all figures shown exclude officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan Police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.

Public Spending Control

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, under which budgetary headings she expects her Department to make savings of £55 million in the fiscal year 2010-11. [7517]

Nick Herbert: The Treasury has confirmed that the Home Office should expect to receive half of the £110 million of capital end year flexibility upon which its capital plans for 2010-11 were based. This means that reductions of around £55 million will need to be made in-year. This will be achieved by bearing down on costs across a range of Home Office programmes and projects.

Sexual Offences: Travel Restrictions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign travel orders have been issued under section 114 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 since the Act came into force. [8564]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* According to the latest data published by the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) there have been 18 foreign travel orders issued since the Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force. The following table provides a yearly breakdown:

Sexual Offences Act Orders

	Number of foreign travel orders (FO) granted
2004-05	1
2005-06	1
2006-07	3
2007-08	1
2008-09	12

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Electoral Register: Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent per head by each local authority on electoral registration in the latest period for which figures are available. [9196]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives, for each local authority in England, the net current expenditure per head reported on registration of electors in 2008-09.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to change the requirement that all new homes are zero carbon by 2016. [8622]

Grant Shapps: I have long endorsed the concept of zero carbon new homes from 2016. I recognise the importance for the industry to have a clear definition as soon as possible and we are currently working on this.

Housing: Construction

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to encourage an increase in the level of housebuilding. [8650]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are committed to increasing housing supply from current levels.

The previous Government's model of top-down housing targets failed to deliver: in 2009 just 118,000 completions were achieved, the lowest level of house building in England since the Second World War. On 6 July we revoked regional spatial strategies and regional housing targets and passed power back to local communities. Instead of going against the grain of local opinion and creating opposition to imposed new housing, we will increase housing supply by introducing powerful fiscal incentives so that communities benefit directly from housing growth. We are confident that our approach to housing, which rebalances power from central government to local authorities and local people, and combines this with powerful incentives for local authorities, will deliver the housing that communities want and need. We will set out further details on the timetable for introducing incentives in due course.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) briefing note on Impact of HM Treasury announcement on HCA spending dated 25 May 2010, when he expects the HCA to announce its decision on the allocation of remaining uncommitted funding for *(a)* the National Affordable Housing programme, *(b)* Kickstart Round 2 and *(c)* Local Authority New Build programme. [9510]

Grant Shapps: The coalition Government remain strongly committed to reducing the United Kingdom's budget deficit and the announcement by the Chief Secretary on 5 July confirmed that the Department has agreed to a £220 million reduction in its claim for end year flexibility this year. Given public sector borrowing in 2010-11 was forecast to hit £167 billion such levels of spending on 'borrowed money' was unsustainable—contributing to the forecast £1.4 trillion of public debt by 2014. However, the Government remain committed to the provision of affordable housing and have been able to secure £1.25 billion of the previous Administration's £1.5 billion Housing Pledge.

This will enable the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to meet all existing contractual commitments and will be able to progress some programmes that have been paused while the funding position was under review. The HCA's regional offices will be assessing which other schemes can be progressed with the aim of maximising affordable housing and achieving best value for money. The objective is to give interested parties clarity as quickly as possible.

Housing: Regeneration

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what decisions he has taken on the future of Housing Market Renewal Initiative funding in Liverpool, Walton constituency; and if he will make a statement. [9288]

Grant Shapps: Future plans for programmes such as Housing Market Renewal will be set out by the Government after the spending review later in the year.

Local Government Services: Voluntary Organisations

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what future role he envisages for the voluntary sector in *(a)* supporting local communities in accessing public services and *(b)* the provision and development of local services. [9680]

Robert Neill: The voluntary and community sector has an important role to play in helping people to create the Big Society in their neighbourhood, where local people feel empowered to bring about the changes they know their communities need and they come together to change the things they care about.

The Government will continue to give new powers to neighbourhoods, including greater control over their finances and new rights to take over state-run services, and will work with the community-led voluntary sector to identify and remove unnecessary regulation and barriers which hinder its work.

Local Government: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will meet representatives of Shrewsbury town council to discuss *(a)* the devolution of additional powers and responsibilities from Shropshire unitary authority and *(b)* means of improving value for money of local authority services. [9339]

Robert Neill: The coalition's programme for government sets out a radical localist vision where powers are passed not merely to councils but down further to communities, neighbourhoods and individuals. In any place it is for the councils democratically accountable to local people to decide what arrangements for devolving powers is most suitable for their area.

I will, of course, be happy to meet the hon. Gentlemen and representatives of his town council.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who have renegotiated the terms of their mortgage in the last 12 months *(a)* following receipt of Government-funded help and advice and *(b)* in total. [9612]

Grant Shapps: Communities and Local Government does not hold information on the number of people who have renegotiated mortgage terms with their lender as a result of Government help and advice. However, at least 110,000 households have received advice on mortgage problems through the Citizens Advice Bureau or their local authority in the last year. Latest data show that 20,254 households approached their local authority for advice in relation to the Mortgage Rescue Scheme by the end of March 2010.

In the interests of transparency, on 20 July I am publishing a report commissioned by the previous Government yet never published. The Professor Muellbauer report, "Modelling and Forecasting UK Mortgage Arrears and Possessions", indicates that in a worst-case scenario there could be 175,000 repossessions by 2012. However the coalition Government are committed to ensuring that interest rates remain low for as long as possible. This will be achieved by tackling the £155 billion deficit which will help enable homeowners to stay in their own homes and avoid repossession through ongoing lower interest rates. The Government believe this measure will prevent repossessions better than any other individual scheme.

An evaluation of the Mortgage Rescue and Homeowners Support schemes will be published shortly. I have reviewed the repossession schemes offered by Communities and Local Government, to ensure that they provide the best support for homeowners and value for money for the taxpayer. I can confirm that the Mortgage Rescue and Homeowners Mortgage Support schemes remain available as a last resort to homeowners facing the threat of repossession. The Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme will end, as planned, at the end of the financial year. I will be considering the longer term role for the Mortgage Rescue scheme as part of the Spending Review.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider the merits of local development orders in place of alternative Article 4 directions to provide flexibility in the regulation of houses of multiple occupation. [9717]

Robert Neill: The Minister for Housing and Local Government outlined our proposed approach to the treatment of houses in multiple occupation within the planning system on 17 June 2010.

We are currently considering a number of matters that have been raised in relation to those proposals. The question of whether LDOs or Article 4 directions are the most suitable tool for managing HMOs on a targeted basis is part of that consideration.

Notwithstanding, as mentioned in the Budget 2010 (HC61) we intend to promote the greater use of local development orders where appropriate as part of a shift to a more locally driven planning regime.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons Oxford city council was not invited to contribute to the targeted consultation on the changing of planning rules for houses in multiple occupation. [9718]

Robert Neill: In considering the proposed changes to the planning rules for houses in multiple occupation we approached a number of representative bodies for their comments. These included the Local Government Association, and the Planning Officer Society.

We did not invite individual local authorities to comment. However, any comments made by individual authorities will of course be taken into account.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria were used to determine participants in his Department's targeted consultation on the changing of planning rules for houses in multiple occupation. [9719]

Robert Neill: Following the statement by the Minister for Housing and Local Government to the House on 17 June 2010 we have been engaged with discussions with key partners about our proposals in relation to the planning rules for HMOs.

Those invited to participate were chosen on the basis of the interests they represented with the aim of covering all viewpoints identified in the earlier consultation.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 529W, on non-domestic rates, and with reference to the Budget Red Book 2010 page 27, section 1.67, when the Government intend to bring forward legislation to provide for a temporary increase in small business rate relief; when guidance will be made available; and if he will make a statement. [9306]

Robert Neill: The 22 June Budget announced the Government's intention to cancel certain backdated business rates and increase the level of small business rate relief for one year, from October 2010. I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 908W, on backdated business rates bills. In respect of small business rate relief, the necessary statutory instruments were laid before Parliament on the 28 June. They are the Non-Domestic Rating (Small Business Rate Relief) (Amendment) (England) Order (SI 2010/1655), and the Non-Domestic (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (SI 2010/1656). Local authorities are responsible for the administration of this measure. My officials will work closely with them on implementation.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was received from port companies under the previous Government's eight-year payment scheme for backdated business rate demands. [9157]

Robert Neill: The information collected by the Department on business rates does not allow port companies to be separately identified.

Peat

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that his Department's Minerals Planning Guidance on peat extraction takes account of the Government's policies on climate change and international commitments on biodiversity. [9036]

Robert Neill: In the coalition agreement the Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue guidance to Natural England on its procedures for dealing with applications for peat extraction. [9037]

Robert Neill: The Department has no plans to issue guidance to Natural England on its procedure for dealing with applications for peat extraction. Section 54 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced for most statutory consultees, a duty to respond to consultation and a requirement for those statutory consultees to produce an annual report on their performance in responding to consultation.

Public Houses: Property Transfer

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 531W, on public houses, how many communities the Asset Transfer Unit has assisted to take ownership or management of their local public house to date; and if he will make a statement. [9471]

Andrew Stunell: The Asset Transfer Unit has so far assisted one community specifically on taking over their local public house, but its knowledge and ability to provide tailored support (from external partners or through consultancy services) ensures that it is in a position to respond to other similar enquiries should it be approached.

The Government's commitment to introduce powers to help communities save local facilities threatened with closure, which could include public houses of importance to particular communities, is set out in 'The Coalition: our programme for government'. Options for achieving this objective most effectively are under consideration, and we will be discussing this further with all those with an interest across the sectors.

Regional Planning and Development: West Midlands

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 26W, on regional planning and development; West Midlands, whether the Government responses to the *(a)* Second and *(b)* Third Report for the West Midlands Regional Select Committee of Session 2009-10 will be made before the summer recess. [9360]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-40WS.

RENEW North Staffs

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* land and *(b)* other capital assets have been acquired (i) by RENEW North Staffs and (ii) by others using RENEW North Staffs funding each year since RENEW North Staffs was established; and how much has been spent in each case. [6603]

Robert Neill: For each year the property acquisition and land acquisition by RENEW and its partners is as follows:

	Property RENEW	*Stoke city council*	*RSL*	*Land (ha)*
2003-04	1	64	0	2.1
2004-05	0	217	0	0.171
2005-06	0	345	18	0.4
2006-07	1	287	12	1.26
2007-08	0	362	104	0
2008-09	0	361	91	0
2009-10	3	216	67	0

The cost of the individual acquisitions is not readily available in the format requested.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been received by RENEW North Staffs in each year since it was established. [6629]

Robert Neill: RENEW North Staffordshire has received funding as follows:

	£
2003-04	5,435,978
2004-05	7,001,039
2005-06	19,299,999
2006-07	29,000,000
2007-08	38,410,000
2008-09	39,960,000
2009-10	37,956,000
Total	177,063,016

Rented Housing: Empty Property

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of vacant properties in the *(a)* social and *(b)* private rented sector in (i) Leeds and (ii) Leeds North West. [9551]

Andrew Stunell: Information is not collected by constituency.

The Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) collects information from local authorities on the number of vacant dwellings within each local authority area as at 1 April. Information is not collected on the number of vacant dwellings in the private rented sector.

The Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) is collected by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) and collects information on vacant dwellings from registered social landlords as at 31 March. However, the number of vacant dwellings recorded includes general needs dwellings only.

A table showing the number of vacant dwellings owned by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords in each local authority area as at 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2009 respectively has been placed in the Library of the House.

Repossession Orders

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of repossessions in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012; [9642]

(2) what his Department's estimate of the number of repossessions in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012 was immediately prior to 6 May 2010. [9643]

Grant Shapps: In the interests of transparency, on 20 July I am publishing a report commissioned by the previous Government yet never published on "Modelling and Forecasting UK Mortgage Arrears and Possession". This report presents the findings of research that the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit commissioned from Professor John Muellbauer and Dr Janine Aron. The project developed a model aimed at improving our understanding of the drivers of mortgage arrears and possessions and to predict how arrears and possessions may move over the next few years in different economic scenarios.

The report indicates that in a worst case scenario there could be 175,000 repossessions by 2012. However the coalition Government are committed to ensuring that interest rates remain low for as long as possible. This will be achieved by tackling the £155 billion deficit which will help enable homeowners to stay in their own homes and avoid repossession through ongoing lower interest rates. The Government believe this measure will prevent repossessions better than any other individual scheme.

In addition, the Council for Mortgage Lenders forecast for repossessions in 2010 remains at 53,000 but maybe lower.

JUSTICE

Courts: Closures

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 162W, on "Courts: Closures," for what reason the target for actual court utilisation has been set at 80%; and what the target for planned court utilisation is. [8486]

Mr Djanogly: A national utilisation rate of 80% allows sufficient capacity to accommodate fluctuations in work load as well as capacity for courtroom time that is unable to be used due to ineffective trials etc. while ensuring that the court estate is well utilised. There is no target for planned court utilisation.

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement; [8297]

(2) whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8421]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In the March 2010 Budget, the Ministry of Justice was tasked with relocating 1,000 posts out of London with 500 posts expected to move outside the south-east of England. No final decisions have yet been taken about the destination of any moves or the number of posts to be relocated to specific locations. The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8327]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Magistrates Courts

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason he proposes to merge Lambeth and Southwark local justice area with Croydon and Sutton local justice area; and what consideration he has given to merging the former local justice area with one geographically nearer. [8484]

Mr Djanogly: The rationale behind the proposed local justice area (LJA) mergers in London is set out on page nine of consultation paper HMCS CP 12/10.

Although the potential reduction to the HMCS estate provides a compelling reason for proposed LJA changes, there is a wider context that relates to the need for HMCS to continue to be able to deliver an efficient magistrates courts service in London to a good standard, at a lower cost.

The LJA amalgamations being consulted upon are not however just borne out of immediate necessity. HMCS has also considered the longer-term and believes that the proposed nine LJA structure creates a strong and flexible operational foundation upon which likely future estates and business strategies can be built.

In formulating the London LJA proposals, HMCS had regard to such issues as the wider estates strategy, the capacity within the courts in the area, the likely size of combined benches, transport links, projected workloads and existing/historic operational connections.

Alternative amalgamations were considered. However it was concluded that the proposed South London LJA represented the optimal operational fit (when viewed across London as a whole), creating an LJA of a similar size to others with reasonable transportation links between the component boroughs. Account was also taken of existing operational connections—the three existing LJAs, for example, have already established one judicial leadership group where the judiciary come together to make decisions for the benefit of the three LJAs as a whole.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were processed in magistrates courts in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* England and *(c)* the West Midlands in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [8424]

Mr Djanogly: The number of court proceedings processed in the magistrates courts in England and Wales, England, and the West Midlands Local Criminal Justice Board area, from 2007 to 2009, are given in the table. Statistics are not available prior to 2007 on a comparable basis.

Completed court proceedings in the magistrates courts, England and Wales, 2007-09

	Area	*Total number of completed criminal proceedings (including breaches)*	*Total number of completed non-criminal proceedings*	*Total number of completed court proceedings*
2007	England and Wales	1,890,000	870,000	2,760,000
	England	1,766,000	814,000	2,581,000
	West midlands	133,000	66,000	199,000
2008	England and Wales	2,031,000	977,000	3,008,000
	England	1,909,000	917,000	2,826,000
	West midlands	94,000	47,000	141,000
2009 (provisional)	England and Wales	1,909,000	981,000	2,890,000
	England	1,826,000	933,000	2,759,000
	West midlands	107,000	66,000	173,000

Notes:

1. All figures are given to the nearest thousand.

2. Prior to 2007, data were collected from different administrative systems and are not directly comparable with those given in the table. For this reason, the table shows the figures from 2007 only.

Source:

Completed Proceedings, HM Courts Service Performance Database ('OPT')

Magistrates Courts: Bradford

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 165W, on "Magistrates Courts: Bradford," what the planned courtroom utilisation rate was in *(a)* Bradford and *(b)* Bingley magistrates court in the latest period for which figure are available; what the reasons were for not meeting that rate; and what estimate he has made of the number of hours spent on trials which were classified as ineffective which contributed to the under-utilisation of each court in that period. [8487]

Mr Djanogly: HM Courts Service does not have planned court utilisation rates. For the financial year 2009-10 the utilisation rate for Bradford was 64%. The reason that Bradford and Bingley (with an utilisation rate of 70%) did not reach a higher utilisation rate was due to an over supply of courtrooms as compared to the work load.

HM Courts Service does not record the amount of time spent on ineffective trials.

Magistrates Courts: Greater London

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 167W, on "Magistrates' Courts: Greater London", what international jurisdiction work HM Courts Service proposes to be heard at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court; and what estimate has been made of the number of courtrooms such work will require. [8483]

Mr Djanogly: The international jurisdiction work referred to in my previous answer primarily comprises hearings under the Extradition Act 2003.

Part I of the Act deals with requests to extradite foreign nationals brought to court following arrest under a European Arrest Warrant (EAW). Part II of the Act deals with requests instigated by states not signatories to the treaty adopting Part I EAW proceedings. Workload under both parts of the Act has been increasing significantly over recent years and is set to continue to do so.

A number of options for expansion at Camberwell Green have been developed, one of which includes an additional two courtrooms that would be used specifically to accommodate the increase in such applications.

Magistrates Courts: Greater London

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 167W, on "Magistrates Courts: Central London", what estimate HM Courts Service has made of the likely sale price of Tower Bridge Magistrates Court; whether any expressions of interest in purchasing the property have been received; and whether the property is on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. [8480]

Mr Djanogly: The last recorded valuation undertaken in April 2009 estimates the potential sale value of the entire Tower Bridge site to be in excess of £4 million.

HMCS is not aware of, nor has any recorded indication of, receiving any expressions of interest in purchasing the magistrates court.

The property has grade 2 listed status.

Prison Sentences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 170-71W, on prison sentences, how many *(a)* immediate custodial sentences and *(b)* suspended sentences were given for each category of summary non-motoring offences in each of the last two years. [8485]

Mr Blunt: The requested information is provided in the following table.

The most recent two years for which data are available is 2007-08. Data for 2009 will become available when "Sentencing Statistics 2009" is published later in the year.

Total number of immediate custodial sentences of less than 12 months and suspended sentences for summary non-motoring offences, 2007-08

	Suspended sentence	*Immediate custody*
2007		
Adulteration of food, drugs, etc.	0	1
Assault on a constable	1,157	1,927
Common assault, etc.	3,991	6,161
Betting, Gaming and Lotteries	1	1
Brothel keeping	5	10
Cruelty to animals	50	52
Offences in relation to dogs	11	14
Education Acts	63	22
Financial offences	1	0
Firearms Act 1968 and other firearms acts	45	51
Fishery laws	1	0
Nuisances, other than those caused by vehicles	0	1
Offences against public order	646	1,220
Interference with motor vehicle	51	326
Stealing and unauthorised taking of a conveyance	171	753
Aggravated vehicle taking—criminal damage of £5,000 or under	137	373
Indecent exposure	0	1
Drunkenness, simple	0	3
Drunkenness, with aggravation	5	6
Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws	1	0
Criminal damage, £5,000 or less, and malicious damage	388	1,110
Social security offences	90	38
Offences under Army 1955 or Armed Forces Act 1966	0	1
Reserve Forces Acts 1980 and 1996 (so far as they concern the naval and marine forces)	0	1
Air Force Act 1955	1	0
Disorderly behaviour	0	6
Other offences against certain local regulations	4	3
Kerb-crawling	25	43
Offence by prostitutes	3	0
Public health offences	2	0
Railway offences	4	13
Motor vehicle licences	0	1
Stage carriage and public service vehicles offences	1	0
Sexual offenders—miscellaneous	0	2
Begging	0	9
Found in enclosed premises, possessing picklocks	6	60
Wild Birds Protection Acts	1	1
Video Recordings Act 1984	0	1
Drug offences	3	47
Offences against Immigration Act 1971	3	53
Other summary offences (excluding motoring)	399	964
Total (summary excluding motoring)	7,266	13,275
2008		
Assault on a constable	1,018	1,778
Common assault, etc.	4,413	6,698
Betting, Gaming and Lotteries	4	8
Brothel keeping	11	20
Cruelty to animals	65	71
Offences in relation to dogs	6	10
Education Acts	58	28
Firearms Act 1968 and other firearms acts	30	32
Fishery laws	0	2
Offences against public order	637	1,382
Interference with motor vehicle	67	298
Stealing and unauthorised taking of a conveyance	117	691
Aggravated vehicle taking—criminal damage of £5,000 or under	163	350
Impersonation, false or misleading statements, failing to give information	0	1
Drunkenness, with aggravation	7	6
Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws	1	3
Criminal damage, £5,000 or less, and malicious damage	425	1,253
Social security offences	133	31
Offences under Army 1955 or Armed Forces Act 1966	0	1
Disorderly behaviour	1	5
Other offences against certain local regulations	3	2
Kerb-crawling	20	42
Public health offences	1	0
Railway offences	1	11
Stage carriage and public service vehicles offences	1	4
Sexual offenders—miscellaneous	0	1
Unlawful possession	0	1
Begging	0	1
Found in enclosed premises, possessing picklocks	11	55
Wild Birds Protection Acts	1	0
Video Recordings Act 1984	0	2
Drug offences	7	47

Total number of immediate custodial sentences of less than 12 months and suspended sentences for summary non-motoring offences, 2007-08

	Suspended sentence	*Immediate custody*
Offences against Immigration Act 1971	6	40
Other summary offences (excluding motoring)	489	1,212
Total (summary excluding motoring)	7,696	14,086

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
3. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
4. Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Prison Service: Ex-servicemen

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what protocols have been agreed between the Prison Service and the Ministry of Defence on the identification of service personnel in prisons since 1998; [8127]

(2) if Ministers in his Department will meet practitioners in the criminal justice system who specialise in work with ex-service personnel to discuss the matter of ex-service personnel in prison. [8128]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners are routinely asked for details of their employment history as part of the prison induction process. Prison assessment procedures have been revised to include more specific questions to identify offenders who have served in the armed forces.

We continue to work closely with the Ministry of Defence, voluntary and community sector organisations and across Government to raise awareness among ex-service personnel of the help and support available to them and their families while they serve their sentence and prepare for release.

A data-processing agreement was formed in 2009 for the specific purpose of sharing and processing personal data from MOD and MOJ records in order to establish the number of prisoners in England and Wales who have formerly served in one of the UK armed forces. This is estimated to be approximately 3% of the prison population.

The Ministry of Justice is also represented on the Ex Service Offenders Working Group, which is chaired by the MOD.

Ministers will meet practitioners who specialise in this work in the course of their duties.

Tribunals: Disability Living Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the annual cost to the public purse of tribunals for disability living allowance awards was where an award was *(a)* made and *(b)* not made was in each of the last five years. [9227]

Mr Djanogly: The first-tier tribunal (social security and child support) administers disability living allowance (DLA) appeals. The Tribunals Service is only able to provide figures from 2006-07. Prior to this, the Appeals Service, an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was responsible for the appeals system. The DWP is unable to provide any data.

The cost of DLA appeals is shown in the following table:

£

	Costs of tribunal where an award was made	*Costs of tribunal where an award was not made*
2009-10	5,275,402	9,603,787
2008-09	6,410,165	13,167,617
2007-08	7,657,723	12,831,279
2006-07	9,122,863	13,297,159

PRIME MINISTER

Israel: Official Visits

Mr Amess: To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to visit the state of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [8570]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 99W.

National Security Council: Meetings

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the agenda for the most recent meeting of the National Security Council; [9172]

(2) who attended the most recent meeting of the National Security Council. [9173]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my official spokesman on 26 May 2010. A copy of the transcript is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-briefings/2010/05/afternoon-press-briefing-from-26-may-2010-51027

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Prime Minister which guests have been invited to *(a)* Chequers, *(b)* Chevening House and *(c)* Dorneywood in each of the last 12 months. [8429]

The Prime Minister: A list of guests who have received official hospitality at Chequers is published on an annual basis and is available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2009-10 will be published in the usual way. The use of Chevening is a matter for the Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the trustees who manage the estate. The use of Dorneywood is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the trustees who manage the estate.

Overseas Trade

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Prime Minister whether he intends to appoint a Minister with responsibility for promoting British trade and industry abroad. [9576]

The Prime Minister: I have made clear my views on the importance of increasing trade and investment to secure a strong and sustained economic recovery. The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk) has already been involved in promoting trade with countries in Asia and in developing relationships with investors and will be further supported across Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Food: Waste

Mrs Main: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the monetary value of the food not consumed from the House of Commons in the last 12 months. [7125]

Sir Stuart Bell: The cost of food waste for the latest period for which records are available, from April 2009 to March 2010, is estimated to be some £70,000, or approximately 4% of food cost. This is within industry norms.

House of Commons: Buildings

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission for what reasons the railings in New Palace Yard were painted during a period when the House was sitting; and for what reasons such work was not scheduled to be carried out during the summer recess. [9093]

Sir Stuart Bell: The railings in New Palace Yard were originally planned to be painted during the summer recess, but this non-disruptive work has been brought forward in view of the shortened time now available. Other maintenance tasks in the area, which would disrupt business, will take place over the recess.

House of Commons: Parking

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission when the refurbishment of the ventilation system for the underground car park is scheduled to *(a)* begin and *(b)* be completed. [9095]

Sir Stuart Bell: This programme is due to start in early 2012 and is scheduled for completion in late 2013. The programme requires a detailed survey, design and procurement processes before commencement. The programme will be managed to ensure minimum impact on the users.

Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent representations he has received on the level of charges levied by the Board of the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit; and if the Commission will review the effect of such charges on the ability of *(a)* Isle of Wight Radio and *(b)* other small independent broadcasters' to use short clips of parliamentary business in news reports. [8998]

Sir Stuart Bell: No representations have been received. Television coverage during the first 14 days is licensed and distributed by PARBUL; television coverage after 14 days and all audio coverage is licensed and distributed by the Parliamentary Recording Unit. The licensing portion of the charge to broadcasters for the provision of television coverage of parliamentary proceedings after 14 days has now been ended, leaving only the duplicating charge. This will give independent broadcasters easier access to parliamentary proceedings. Audio-only content for broadcast radio use within the 14 day period will be treated in the same way.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Luciana Berger: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission whether any farms from which eggs are sourced for the House's catering outlets practise beak-trimming. [8974]

Sir Stuart Bell: All fresh eggs are sourced from British higher-welfare standard flocks assured under the RSPCA's Freedom Food scheme and the BEIC British Lion code of practice, where beak-trimming is carried out in accordance with a code of best practice. Pasteurised egg products come from Belgium and are sourced from farms where beak trimming is carried out under the German regulatory KAT scheme, which is an equivalent European scheme for high standards of welfare in animal husbandry.

Security

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1W, on departmental security, whether staff of Government Departments who hold parliamentary passes may use each of the souvenir shops on the House of Commons portion of the parliamentary estate; and if he will make a statement. [8685]

Sir Stuart Bell: Staff of Government Departments who hold parliamentary passes have access to each of the souvenir shops on the House of Commons portion of the parliamentary estate.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Attorney-General what estimate he has made of the expenditure of the Law Officers' Departments on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6124]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Financial year	Tsol, AGO and HMCPSI[1]	Serious Fraud Office[2]	National Fraud Authority[3]	£ Crown Prosecution Service[4]
1997-98	—	5,973	—	—
1998-99	8,029	10,517	—	—
1999-2000	6,622	13,596	—	—
2000-01	41,355	24,525	—	—
2001-02	12,068	55,260	—	—
2002-03	12,468	45,181	—	—
2003-04	19,505	19,170	—	1,262,298
2004-05	21,958	78,800	—	983,860
2005-06	11,992	42,295	—	1,259,419
2006-07	16,953	79,675	—	1,287,949
2007-08	16,463	28,628	—	1,096,130
2008-09	22,667	36,977	3,826	1,110,876
2009-10	12,721	26,956	80,360	905,259

[1] It is not possible to provide separate information for the costs of *(a)* organising and *(b)* attending conferences, or information for earlier years, without incurring disproportionate cost. The figures include the costs of training events such as mandatory professional training for lawyers employed by the Department.

[2] The costs for the organisation of conferences are covered in the overall costs shown above and not recorded separately, an exact breakdown could be determined only at a disproportionate cost.

[3] The NFA was established in 2008. In 2009-10, a series of events including Regional Summits, Action Fraud presentations and NFA staff conferences (at external venues) were held by the NFA. The Regional Summits, a series of one day events, were held in Newcastle, Manchester and London (July 2009) and Brighton, Bristol, Birmingham and Cardiff (December 2009). Figures are based on organisational and attendance costs. Providing additional information, such as travel and subsistence, would be at a disproportionate cost.

[4] Information is only recorded centrally on the costs of organising the main conferences that took place outside CPS buildings attended by civil servants, figures for attendance costs and all information before 2003-04 could be determined only at a disproportionate cost. Figures from 2006-07 also include expenditure by the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office (RCPO), which merged with the CPS on 1 January 2010.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on travel for their employees in each year since 1997. [7417]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is detailed in the following table.

	NFA[1]	SFO[2]	CPS[3]	Cost (£) Tsol[4]
1997-98	—	130,393	—	—
1998-99	—	111,467	—	74,000
1999-2000	—	139,876	—	68,000
2000-01	—	175,465	—	88,800
2001-02	—	212,298	—	183,000
2002-03	—	225,010	—	197,000
2003-04	—	191,879	4,820,000	246,000
2004-05	—	224,121	4,520,000	191,000
2005-06	—	200,629	4,940,000	228,000
2006-07	—	189,715	5,090,000	279,000
2007-08	—	160,226	5,486,000	294,000
2008-09	4,925	216,445	5,849,000	385,000
2009-10	44,714	160,052	5,552,000	293,000

[1] The travel cost for 2009-10 reflects the full year impact of NFA operations as it has grown in size and developed its programme of work. The data cover all reported travel costs including flights, rail, car travel (mileage).

[2] The data include all costs for rail travel, air, car hire, mileage and taxis.

[3] The figures provided from 05-06 include travel costs for the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service (RCPO) who merged with the CPS on 1 January 2010. The data are taken from the Financial Management System and are available only from 2003-04 onwards, data for earlier years could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. The figures include road, rail and air travel, and also charges for car hire. The 2009-10 totals are subject to audit.

[4] Figures cover the amount spent by the Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate. The data prior to 1998-99 are not retained on the Department's accounting system, and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate was not included within the Department until mid-2001. The data cover all reported travel costs including flights, rail and car travel.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr Raab: To ask the Attorney-General how many times the Crown Prosecution Service charged terrorist suspects under the threshold test in the Code for Crown Prosecutors in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; and how many times it has done so in 2010 to date. [8666]

The Solicitor-General: According to its records, the Crown Prosecution Service used the threshold test to charge 14 terrorist suspects in 2007, six terrorist suspects in 2008 and one terrorist suspect in 2009. No suspects have been charged using the threshold test in 2010 to date.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Alexander Litvinenko

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the Government of the Russian Federation on the death of Alexander Litvinenko. [8775]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the right hon. Member for Rotherham (Mr MacShane) of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 516W.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the *(a)* investigation of the death of Alexander Litvinenko and *(b)* extradition of Andrei Lugovoi; and if he will make a statement. [8776]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Following the investigation into the death of Alexander Litvinenko, the Crown Prosecution Service on 22 May 2007 announced that it had found there is a case for Andrei Lugovoy to answer. He therefore remains liable for prosecution in the UK for the murder of Mr Litvinenko.

British Nationals Abroad: Sexual Offences

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements are in place between the Government and foreign Governments to share information on sex offenders who are British citizens. [9693]

Mr Jeremy Browne: UK law enforcement shares properly risk-assessed information with international law enforcement agencies through Interpol, when there is a lawful need to do so. This is considered on a case-by-base basis. The responsibility for the Government's work to tackle child sex crimes lies with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, an arm of the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role is of British embassies and consulates in the investigation and arrest of British citizens in cases of alleged offences of child sexual abuse committed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [9695]

Mr Jeremy Browne: UK law enforcement in some cases does have a presence overseas. The responsibility for the Government's work to tackle child sex crimes lies with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre—an arm of the Special Organised Crime Agency.

British embassies and consulates have a consular role after the arrest of a British national. Full details of the assistance we offer are available at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/arrest

Burma

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his overseas counterparts on the state of democracy in Burma. [8832]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I raised Burma with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministers at the EU-ASEAN ministerial meeting on 26 May 2010, at which the Burmese Foreign Minister was present. I made clear that there was no prospect of planned elections being free and fair while Aung San Suu Kyi and more than 2,100 other political prisoners remained in detention, and many Opposition and ethnic groups were excluded from meaningful participation in the process. Burma was on the agenda of the G8 Summit attended by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 27 June 2010, and the Summit Communiqué underlined G8 leaders' concern at the lack of progress towards democracy in Burma. The Government will continue to raise Burma with international partners, and the issue will be high on the agenda during my forthcoming visit to south-east Asia.

Chevening Scholarships

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many candidates for Chevening scholarships in 2010-11 have not yet been informed of the outcome of their application. [9005]

Mr Hague: The Chevening scholarships scheme is managed through our posts around the world and so this information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost. The situation is fluid. For example, some candidates who had applied for a Chevening partnership scholarship may now be offered an award funded fully by the partner and the university. Some candidates may be offered an award if other candidates are unable to accept theirs. Posts have been keeping candidates as well informed as possible and expect all applicants to have confirmation in the next few weeks.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to assist trade unions in Colombia. [8263]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The safety of trade unionists in Colombia remains of great concern to us. Our embassy in Colombia continues to visit those who are under threat and we make representations to the Colombian authorities in cases of violence or intimidation against trade unionists. We are also working with the UN on a research initiative to help improve trade union human rights protection and the development of positive labour relations.

Guatemala: Human Rights

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to ensure fulfilment of the provisions of the UN resolution A/HRC/14/L.19 on enforced or involuntary disappearances, with particular reference to Guatemala. [7808]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK fully supports the need to protect all people from enforced disappearance and welcomes the adoption of the UN resolution, which was co-sponsored by Guatemala.

Human rights is a key priority for our embassy in Guatemala City. We strongly support the work of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, which works to assist Guatemala investigate violent criminal organisations believed to be responsible for widespread crime and paralysis of the country's judicial system. The UK has funded a number of projects in this area, including with the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, which brings forensic science to the task of identifying the remains of people who disappeared during the internal armed conflict.

Hezbollah

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his

Department's policy of exploring contacts with Hezbollah. [8590]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Beirut held very limited contacts with Hezbollah politicians before May 2010. We will be reviewing this issue, along with our wider Lebanon policy, in a careful and considered manner.

Horn of Africa

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will convene a summit in London to discuss the security situation in the Horn of Africa. [8820]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are very concerned by the security situation in the Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia. International partners met in May 2010 to discuss the situation in Somalia at an international conference in Istanbul. A further conference is due to take place in Spain this autumn. The Government therefore have no plans to convene a summit in London at present.

Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take during the next 12 months at the UN on recognition by the UN of Israel as a Jewish state; and if he will make a statement. [R] [illegible]

Alistair Burt: A number of issues related to the Middle East are discussed on a monthly basis at the UN. We will continue to push for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 which calls for all the parties and the international community to achieve a comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders. This has consistently been the UK position and the only long-term solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to develop relations with the government of Israel since his appointment; what steps he plans to take on this matter in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [R] [8746]

Alistair Burt: The UK is in constant touch and dialogue with the Israeli Government.

We remain determined to do everything possible to work towards a two state solution that achieves a viable and sovereign Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel, with its right to live in peace and security recognised by all its neighbours. The proximity talks that are under way are more important than ever to help pave the way towards a comprehensive peace in the region.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister underlined our commitment in his conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Palestinian President Abbas, and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has also made this clear in the House.

Kashmir

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support a bilateral solution to the situation in Kashmir. [9348]

Alistair Burt: We welcome the positive steps being taken by Pakistan and India to build trust and confidence between their countries. The long standing position of the UK is that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution to the situation in Kashmir, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution or to mediate in finding one.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of *(a)* India and *(b)* Pakistan on Kashmir. [9349]

Alistair Burt: India and Pakistan are longstanding and important friends of the UK. We have many significant links to both countries through Indian and Pakistani diaspora communities who live in the UK. We welcome the positive steps being taken by India and Pakistan to build trust and confidence between both countries.

We regularly discuss Kashmir with both Indian and Pakistani Government officials and make clear our hope that they can make progress on the issue. But the long standing position of the UK is that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution to the situation in Kashmir, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution or to mediate in finding one.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* economic and *(b)* political situation in Kashmir. [9350]

Alistair Burt: Kashmir's uncertain political future affects its economic prospects and this impacts upon investment and development opportunities on both sides of the Line of Control.

The Governments of India and Pakistan are making efforts to normalise their relations and this includes the situation in Kashmir. It is for the Governments of India and Pakistan to determine the scope of their dialogue but any solution on the issue of Kashmir should take into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The UK continues to call for an improvement in the human rights situation on both sides of the Line of Control and for an end to external support for violence in Kashmir. Funding from the UK supports human rights, conflict prevention, and peace building efforts on both sides of the Line of Control.

Kazakhstan

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives the Government has set for UK foreign policy on Kazakhstan. [8895]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We want to strengthen our relationship with Kazakhstan. Energy security and supplies, together with the corresponding trade and investment opportunities, are particularly important. But there are many other areas where we are working to enhance co-operation. These include the financial and legal sectors, through language and vocational education links and on nuclear counter-proliferation issues. We will also continue to work closely with Kazakhstan on the broader international agenda, not least through Kazakhstan's important role this year as chairman-in-office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). We will continue to encourage and support Kazakhstan to meet the human rights and political standards to which it is committed as a member of organisations such as the UN and the OSCE.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on steps taken by the Government of Kazakhstan to meet its commitment to implement reforms in respect of *(a)* media freedom, *(b)* religious freedom, *(c)* internet law and *(d)* human rights, democratisation and legislative reform in the first six months of its Chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. [8896]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are encouraged that the existing parliamentary schedule in Kazakhstan includes draft legislation on accessibility to information, strengthening the role of the Ombudsman and the creation of a National Preventative Mechanism to oversee public monitoring of places of detention. But there remains considerable room for improvement including in respect of freedom of religion, expression, assembly and of the media, in particular legislation tightening state control of the internet. There is also scope for improvement in the legislation on elections, political parties and local government enacted in February 2009. We and international partners will continue to encourage the Kazakh authorities, both within and outside the framework of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, to press ahead with reforms, many of which they have identified as necessary.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe on the upholding of democratic principles by Kazakhstan since his appointment. [8897]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK consistently makes clear the importance it attaches to the human dimension of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation (OSCE), including in respect of the obligations to which Kazakhstan has committed itself. I will be discussing these issues during my visit to Almaty for the informal meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OSCE on 16-17 July 2010.

Lebanon: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the security situation in South Lebanon, with particular reference to *(a)* recent attacks on United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon patrols in the region and *(b)* Israeli military activity along the Lebanese border. [9066]

Alistair Burt: The security situation in southern Lebanon remains calm but fragile. We remain extremely concerned by the recent attacks against UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers on 29 June, 3 July, and 4 July. The UK joined with other Security Council members in agreeing a press statement which condemned such attacks and made clear the need for UNIFIL to be afforded the freedom of movement and security necessary to fulfil its mandate. Prior to this period however, as the UN Secretary General makes clear in his latest report (13th) on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701, the security situation has been relatively quiet. I represented my concerns to the Lebanese Government during my visit to the region on 13-14 June 2010 and we hope for no repeat of this incident in the future.

We are aware of reports of Israeli military activity along the border with Lebanon as well as repeated violations of Lebanese airspace by Israeli overflights, which continue to occur. We call on both Israel and Lebanon to comply in full with UNSCR 1701 and to work to maintain the existing stability.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the ability of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to carry out its peacekeeping duties in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1701. [9067]

Alistair Burt: The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) plays a vital and positive role in maintaining peace and security in southern Lebanon. However it faces a number of challenges, underlined by the recent attacks on 29 June, 3 July, and 4 July against its peacekeepers.

The UK has joined with other (P5) Security Council members in agreeing a press statement which condemned such attacks and made clear the need for UNIFIL to be afforded freedom of movement and security necessary for it to fulfil its mandate.

I also represented these concerns to the Lebanese Government, during my visit to the region on 13-14 June 2010 and we hope for no repeat of this incident in the future.

Overseas Students: Scholarships

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of British Embassy bursaries for foreign students to study in the UK in the last 12 months. [2263]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funded four different award schemes in financial year 2009-10. The provisional outturn on each is as follows:

Chevening scholarships:	£18,761,108
Chevening fellowships:	£3,799,951
Marshall scholarships:	£2,218,151
Commonwealth scholarships:	£1,076,521.

On 29 June my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary announced the FCO had reviewed programme spend. The FCO will maintain a substantial programme of scholarships to bring future decision takers and opinion-formers to the UK, while professionalising our current

arrangements and targeting them on a smaller group of people. We will cut this year's programme by £10 million and seek (resources permitting) to sustain a smaller and more strategic programme in future years.

Palestinians

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his US counterpart, *(b)* his Israeli counterpart and *(c)* the Palestinian Authority on measures to strengthen Palestinian Authority security forces in the West Bank. [8538]

Alistair Burt: Enhancing and strengthening the Palestinian Authority Security Forces (PASF) continues to remain a top priority for both the Palestinian Authority and the UK Government.

We work closely alongside the PASF and provide technical assistance aimed at improving the efficiency and professionalism of the security sector as a whole including the civilian police and emergency services; and direct classroom based training for the PASF. In addition to this the UK has separate activity supporting policing, justice and the rule of law in the Palestinian Territories.

We also work closely with the United States Security Co-ordinator (USSC) General Dayton. The USSC provides advice and guidance to support PASF efforts at reform, within the context of the Roadmap and the two-state solution.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has *(a)* taken since his appointment and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months at the UN to deter Hezbollah rearmament; and if he will make a statement. [8688]

Alistair Burt: During my visit to Beirut and Damascus from 12-14 July 2010, I pressed the Governments of Syria and Lebanon to stop the re-arming of Hezbollah. We continue to support the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, and to press for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 including through using our position on the UN Security Council.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of stockpiling by Hezbollah of *(a)* weapons and *(b)* missiles in South Lebanon; what recent discussions he has had with the government of Lebanon on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [8689]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by recent reports of weapons transfers to Hezbollah, including Hezbollah's own claims that it possesses significant military capabilities. We continue to monitor information from all available sources, but lack definitive figures. During my recent visit to Lebanon I raised the issue with Lebanese PM Hariri and expressed the need that UN Security Council Resolution 1701 is implemented in full, and that the issue of Hezbollah disarmament be dealt with as a priority.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Israeli Government to pay compensation for *(a)* loss of property, *(b)* damage to property, *(c)* physical injuries sustained and *(d)* psychological damage caused to British citizens on board the Gaza Freedom Flotilla and during their subsequent detention by Israeli authorities. [8554]

Alistair Burt: We do not normally pursue any loss or theft of property either through seeking its return or through any legal claim. However, in light of the circumstances of this incident, we have exceptionally tried to assist the British nationals in seeking clarification on, and the return of, their possessions.

Should those involved wish to recover property that had allegedly been stolen, or seek compensation, we would advise the individual, or group, to appoint a local legal representative in Israel. They are best placed to advise them on the appropriate way forward in the country they are claiming in, or against. To assist them we are able to provide a list of English speaking, local lawyers based in Israel. We would of course also advise them to speak to the providers of their travel insurance.

If any British national has concerns about mistreatment while in detention we are able, with their permission, to raise it with the relevant authorities and ask for an independent investigation. I raised this with the returnees when I met them on 17 June 2010, and asked them to write to us with the details of any mistreatment.

Russia: Human Rights

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the human rights situation in the Russian Federation. [8777]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Russia. While we welcome the positive agenda set out by President Medvedev and the limited reforms achieved so far, the situation on the ground has, in many areas, shown little sign of improvement. Attacks on human rights defenders and journalists, and ongoing abuses in the North Caucasus region, are of most serious concern. There is still a low success rate in investigating and prosecuting such crimes, perpetuating a climate of impunity. Democratic space, civil society, the media and freedom of assembly are constrained.

The Government will continue to work with Russia on addressing ongoing human rights issues, including through our bilateral human rights dialogue.

South Africa: Football

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals were arrested in South Africa during the period of the 2010 World Cup. [9876]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As far as we are aware there were 12 British nationals arrested in South Africa during the World Cup. However, there may have been arrests of British nationals of which we were not informed, including dual nationals.

None of the arrests were for football related violence.

Thailand: Sexual Offences

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's response was to the Thai Government's decision to deport to the UK all known sex offenders who are British citizens. [9694]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We understand that this is not a new decision. The Thai authorities are applying existing legislation more rigorously to prevent criminals convicted of serious offences entering or staying in Thailand. They are targeting all serious criminals, regardless of the country they have come from. Thailand's immigration policy and practice is a matter for the Thai authorities.

Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to visit Yemen. [9170]

Alistair Burt: For security reasons we cannot disclose the travel plans of my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. I visited Yemen in June and intend to follow up my visit with a further trip later this year.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of the recent visit to Yemen by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. [9171]

Alistair Burt: My recent visit to Yemen on 22 to 24 June 2010, was my first trip to the region. I took the opportunity to reassure my hosts that Yemen is a priority for the new UK Government. I met President Saleh and a number of his senior Ministers. My discussions focussed on bilateral relations, the Friends of Yemen process and economic reform and were productive, friendly and encouraging.

I explained that the UK remains committed to the process of assisting Yemen to tackle the sources of instability, chief among these being the decline of Yemen's economy. The UK and others agree that negotiating an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is vital in addressing the problems facing Yemen's economy. I am pleased to learn that Yemen has now agreed to an IMF programme, which will go to the IMF board for approval later this month. It will be important to see a well-managed implementation of the programme, with support from across the international community.

I also discussed how the Friends of Yemen process could promote support for Yemen and its people and how the UK could help take forward the process launched at the meeting held in London in January 2010.

Yvonne Fletcher

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking following his meeting with his Libyan counterpart to seek to ensure that Libya grants visas to Metropolitan Police officers to visit Libya to conclude their investigation into the killing of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. [9072]

Alistair Burt: The murder of WPC Fletcher was a terrible crime and her family deserve to know the truth. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has made it clear to the Libyan Government that this issue remains one of our key objectives.

Ministers are and will continue to press the Libyan Government on allowing the Metropolitan police (MPS) to return. On 31 May 2010, the Foreign Secretary raised the WPC Fletcher case with the Libyan Foreign Minister, Musa Kusa. I also raised the issue with Libyan Europe Minister Obidi on 15 July 2010.

The FCO will provide all relevant assistance to the MPS, if required, including on applying for visas to travel to Libya when they are permitted to return to Libya.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Candidates: Manpower

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how many senior officials of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) have been parliamentary candidates; and what posts each of those has held in IPSA. [9405]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA does not systematically record this information. However, IPSA is aware that the Compliance Officer, Alan Lockwood, was a parliamentary candidate in the general election of 2005.

ICT: Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what the cost price to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is of the key fobs used to assist in the electronic processing of claims. [9016]

Mr Charles Walker: The price of the key fob cannot be separated from the cost of the security token, as they are purchased as one integrated device. The current cost to IPSA of the key fob and the integrated security token is £75 plus VAT, inclusive of postage and packaging. Replacement security tokens (where for example they are lost or stolen) will be charged to the MP at cost price. IPSA does not make a profit on the security tokens.

This is a reduction on the original cost of replacement tokens, which was £127.58 plus VAT. IPSA has extended its IT support contract to absorb the costs of set-up, registration and testing, meaning the supplier does not charge IPSA support costs per token when supplying replacements. The cost to IPSA and to MPs now just covers the physical device and postage and packaging.

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

Mr Allen: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what recent discussions the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has had on the date on which he will first answer questions for oral answer on the Committee's responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [9391]

Mr Charles Walker: The Speaker's Committee for the IPSA agreed on 30 June that it would accept written questions and that it also wished to accept questions for oral answer. As the rota for oral questions is the responsibility of Ministers, the Speaker, in his role as Chair of the Committee, wrote to the Leader of the House on 5 July requesting that questions to the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee, be included in the rota for oral questions. The Committee awaits a reply.

Members' Staff: Contracts

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what the average time taken between the receipt for approval of a proposed contract of employment of a member of staff of an hon. Member by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and the decision by the Authority on such a contract has been to date. [9002]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA currently responds to requests for approval of staff contracts within two working days of receipt.

Members: Correspondence

Richard Burden: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what guidance the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority provides to its staff on when inquiries from hon. Members should be replied to *(a)* in writing and *(b)* by telephone. [9469]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA's staff are provided with its policy on this matter, which is that IPSA aims to answer all queries which are received on the IPSA Information Line immediately over the telephone. Only where these queries are complex, give rise to advice on Members' specific circumstances that should be recorded, or give rise to issues which require further consideration, will IPSA request that the query is submitted in writing. Queries received by e-mail or letter will be answered in writing, except in cases which can be more quickly or usefully resolved by telephone.

Members: Travel

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many hon. Members who have correctly completed an application to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority for a travel card have not received their travel card. [9015]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested is as follows:

148 Members have not yet collected their travel cards from the IPSA Documentation Centre in 1 Parliament street.

Five Members have supplied the required information for a travel card application. These cards have been ordered and will be available for collection imminently.

Eight Members have not yet provided IPSA with the required details to order a travel card.

Travel cards awaiting collection can be collected from the IPSA Documentation Centre at 1 Parliament street, which is open every day from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm, until 31 July 2010.

Offices

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, on what date the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority proposes to close its office premises on the Parliamentary Estate; and what arrangements the Authority plans to make thereafter for hon. Members to meet its staff at its premises. [9003]

Mr Charles Walker: The Documentation Centre at 1 Parliament street is due to close on 30 July. After this point IPSA will aim to provide one-to-one support for Members as required, for as long as there is a demand for such a service.

Publications

Richard Burden: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority whether the rules and procedures of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority preclude the authority from funding the preparation and publication of hard-copy reports on its activities other than those providing details of how the Authority may be contacted. [9499]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA has chosen to publish the majority of its information in e-mail and online, as this represents the best value for money for the taxpayer and is a quick and efficient way of disseminating information. Its website contains detailed information for Members to read or print off, including a variety of training presentations giving guidance on the online system. All publications can be printed off by Members' staff if they wish to read these in hard copy. In addition, its guidance to the scheme, FAQs and MP bulletins are available in hard copy from the Documentation Centre and Members' Centre.

IPSA currently intends to publish its statutory annual report in hard copy, and has published all consultations in hard copy form.

Telephone Services

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) will make its staff available to advise hon. Members on the telephone in the evenings and at weekends during the same hours that the PICT service helpdesk is open. [9619]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA is currently making a number of changes to the IPSA Information Line—including the recent installation of a new call handling system—which will enable it to deliver improvements to the level of service which is being provided to MPs. At present, IPSA has no plans to extend the operating hours of the IPSA Information Line.

Working Relations

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what recent consideration the Chair and Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have given to steps to improve working relations between the Authority and hon. Members. [9004]

Mr Charles Walker: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has taken and is taking significant steps to work closely with Members in delivering the new expenses scheme. In response to consultation responses and feedback from Members IPSA now offers one-to-one assistance with the online system, cash flow advances of up to £4,000 to help Members with legitimate expenses, and a contingency fund to help Members who are unable to keep within their budgets for this financial year.

IPSA is also keen to develop further the suggestion of a liaison group with the Leader of the House and other interested Members. This will help to ensure that IPSA understands the varied working patterns of Members and that Members are able to access accurate information on IPSA and the Scheme. IPSA is keen to continue to develop its relationship with Members and welcomes comments and feedback sent to:

info@parliamentarystandards.org.uk

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will consider steps to incentivise the production of bioliquids from *(a)* waste cooking oil and *(b)* other waste products; [9368]

(2) if he will make it his policy not to support the production of bioliquids from *(a)* virgin crops and *(b)* other sustainable sources. [9369]

Gregory Barker: The renewables obligation supports the use of a range of biomass, including bioliquids, for the generation of electricity. The renewable energy directive sets criteria by which the sustainability of bioliquids must be assessed and we are considering support for bioliquids within this context. We will make further announcements on these issues shortly.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the contribution of the bioliquids sector to employment opportunities in the renewable energy sector. [9392]

Gregory Barker: I am not aware of any specific assessment that has been made of the contribution of the bioliquids sector to employment opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

Carbon Emissions

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the potential financial savings to the public purse attributable to steps taken to achieve the 10 per cent. carbon reduction target for Government departments. [9332]

Gregory Barker: It is not yet possible to provide an accurate estimate of the financial savings attributable to the Government's 10% emissions reduction target given the variables which will affect the amount and cost of energy used by Government over this period, including variations in weather and the cost of energy.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Sustainable Development Commission and *(b)* other environmental groups on monitoring progressing towards achieving a 10 per cent. year-on-year reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from the Government estate. [9616]

Gregory Barker: My officials have corresponded with staff in the Sustainable Development Commission regarding the 10% reduction target. The working group established to ensure the delivery of this emissions target includes expert representatives from the fields of sustainability and energy efficiency.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the notional reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from the *(a)* outsourcing of Government services and *(b)* sale of Government buildings will be included in the target for a 10 per cent. year-on-year reduction in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from the central government estate. [9650]

Gregory Barker: The 10% emissions reduction target relates to direct emissions from the central Government office estate. While outsourcing and rationalisation of the Government estate can and will deliver towards the 10% savings, the ministerial working group established to ensure the delivery of this emissions target has indicated that is it not acceptable to deliver the savings on the basis of these alone. The aim is to deliver improvements in the way Government operate and procure, in order to reduce Government's demand for energy in a sustainable manner. The group has therefore agreed that there should be a mechanism to ensure that the target can be compared against any overall reduction in estate size or outsourcing, and Departments have been asked to provide regular data on their estate area and number of employees in addition to their emissions.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he intends to use carbon offsets as part of his strategy to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions from the central Government estate by 10 per cent. year-on-year in the next 12 months. [9651]

Gregory Barker: The Government do not intend to use carbon offsets in order to meet the 10% emissions reduction target.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change against which baseline year the proposed 10 per cent. reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from the central Government estate will be measured. [9652]

Gregory Barker: The baseline year for the 10% Government emissions reduction target will be 2009-10. Officials will look to align that as closely as possible with the reporting year for the target which runs from 14 May 2010 to 14 May 2011.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme: Academies

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how new academy schools will be classified in the carbon reduction energy efficiency scheme. [9224]

Gregory Barker: Individual academies will be grouped with their Children's Services Authority (formerly termed local education authorities) for CRC participation. This applies equally to new and existing academies, and ensures that such publicly funded schools are treated in the same manner as maintained schools. It also ensures that the CRC performance of a local authority is not artificially inflated through the change in a maintained school's status to an academy.

Climate Change Convention

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will support a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. [9772]

Gregory Barker: Although a single treaty under the UNFCCC remains our favoured outcome to the international climate change negotiations, a second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol under the right conditions could offer a solution to help move forward. We are exploring what the implications of this would be for the UK.

Cloud Seeding

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the regulation of cloud seeding; what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on cloud seeding; and if he will make a statement. [8978]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not have a policy on the regulation of cloud seeding, which is a technique for changing the amount, type or distribution of precipitation. I have not had any discussions with ministerial colleagues on cloud seeding.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what grants his Department provides to assist community groups to install microrenewable energy sources on community buildings; and if he will make a statement. [7112]

Gregory Barker: The previous grants programmes for the installation of small scale renewable energy technologies have ended, including the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (which closed to new applicants in May 2010) and have been replaced by the feed-in tariff (FITs) which is a tariff scheme not a grants scheme.

The feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme, which was introduced on 1 April this year, is a financial support scheme for eligible low carbon electricity technologies aimed at small-scale installations up to a maximum capacity of 5 megawatts (MW). The scheme currently supports new anaerobic digestion, hydro, solar photovoltaic and wind projects up to that 5 MW limit, by requiring electricity suppliers to make payments to generators based on the number of kilowatt hours they generate. The scheme will also support the first 30,000 micro combined heat and power installations with an electrical capacity of 2 kilowatts or less, as a pilot programme.

Departmental Aviation

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what flights he has taken on official duties since his appointment; and what the purpose was of each such journey. [8718]

Gregory Barker: As set out in the Ministerial Code, Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

The Secretary of State took a flight to Aberdeen on 20 May 2010. The purpose of this visit was an introduction to the DECC staff based in Aberdeen, attendance at the All Energy Exhibition and a company visit. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since its inception. [7357]

Gregory Barker: Department of Energy and Climate Change and its non-departmental bodies spend on office refurbishment was:

		£000
	FY2008-09	*FY2009-10*
(a) Department for Energy and Climate Change	0	1,650
(b) Non-departmental public bodies	332	302

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since its inception. [7507]

Gregory Barker: Department of Energy and Climate Change and its non-departmental bodies spend on televisions was:

		£
	FY 2008-09	*FY 2009-10*
(a) Department of Energy and Climate Change	880	8,400
(b) Non-departmental public bodies	617	1,808

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staffing costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5819]

Gregory Barker: The information requested is as follows:

Total costs

DECC does not record separate spending on promoting equality and diversity. These costs could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Staffing costs

The majority of the work on the promotion aspect of equality and diversity was focused on creating and publicising an interim equality and diversity strategy, establishing a Diversity Advisory Group, and starting consultation on a Single Equality Scheme.

Individual costs are not available, and obtaining more detailed information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Staff employed on promoting equality and diversity

For the period 3 October 2008 (when DECC was created) to 11 May 2009 there were no staff directly employed on promoting equality and diversity. This function was included in a wider shared service arrangement with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

From 11 May 2009 onwards this work has been included in a wider policy remit for one member of staff. Equality and diversity work in total is estimated to represent 20% of the total work, with promotion representing less than 5%.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8314]

Gregory Barker: The Government Car and Despatch Agency do not collect data relating to the mileage travelled by individual Ministers in a Government car.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Roads and Motoring on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £85 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6827]

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from which of his Department's budget headings he plans to make the announced expenditure reductions totalling £85 million in 2010-11. [8596]

Gregory Barker: DECC will make the savings as follows:

£4.8 million from administrative costs

£20.2 million from efficiencies across the Department's delivery bodies

£34 million from low carbon technology and business support

£26 million from other efficiency savings including from support for the Regional Development Agencies.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on training for its employees since its inception. [7649]

Gregory Barker: Department of Energy and Climate Change and its non-departmental bodies spend on training was:

		£000
	FY 2008-09	*FY 2009-10*
(a) Department of Energy and Climate Change	1,553	810
(b) Non-departmental public bodies	4,804	5,659

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies has spent on travel for its employees in each year since its inception. [7426]

Gregory Barker: Department of Energy and Climate Change and its non-departmental bodies spend on travel was:

		£000
	FY2008-09	*FY2009-10*
(a) Department of Energy and Climate Change	1,291	2,327
(b) Non-departmental public bodies	2,617	2,369

Energy: Business

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to provide assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises to increase their energy efficiency. [8543]

Charles Hendry: It is intended that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be eligible for the Green Deal. The Green Deal will enable financing for energy efficiency improvements at no up-front cost to the end user, with repayments via energy bills. In the Queen's Speech we committed to legislate in a first session Energy Bill which should allow for the full Green Deal to be available in 2012.

In the meantime practical and financial support is available. DECC funds the Carbon Trust to provide advice for small businesses through a telephone advice line, specific web tools and publications. They also administer two financial support schemes which SMEs can use for energy efficient investments: an interest free loan scheme, and the enhanced capital allowance scheme, which provides businesses that invest in designated energy efficient equipment with enhanced tax relief.

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to assist small and medium-sized enterprises to secure finance for low carbon energy projects that have been granted planning permission. [8593]

Gregory Barker: There are a number of ways in which small and medium-sized enterprises can access financial support for low carbon energy projects.

Businesses installing combined heat and power systems benefit from climate change levy exemptions and enhanced capital allowances to help finance the capital investment and operating costs. Projects that generate renewable electricity can secure financial support for generation through the renewables obligation and feed-in tariffs.

The Carbon Trust currently supplies loans of £3,000 to £100,000 for SMEs across the UK to purchase energy efficient equipment. Repayments are linked to energy bill savings and once the loan is repaid future savings are kept by the business.

The Government are committed to increasing the amount of renewable heat in the UK; this is a crucial part of ensuring we meet our renewables targets, cutting carbon and ensuring energy security. We are currently looking at the renewable heat incentive (RHI) proposals and look to make an announcement on the future of the proposed scheme as soon as possible.

In addition, the Government have committed to encouraging community-owned renewable energy schemes where local people benefit from the power produced. We have also announced plans to set up a green investment bank to help the UK meet the low-carbon investment challenge.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to improve energy efficiency standards in the private rented property sector. [8594]

Gregory Barker: The Government announced a refocused and extended carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) on 30 June 2010, which is expected to provide benefits for at least 3.5 million households of all types by the end of 2012.

CERT will pave the way for a new Green Deal for households and business that will mark a dramatic change in how we deliver improvements in the energy efficiency of properties in the UK. Green Deal finance will enable the provision of energy efficiency measures with no upfront costs. This has the potential to overcome the cost barriers that may have prevented many landlords taking action in the past.

Energy: Subsidies

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on subsidies for clean coal production in each year since 1997. [6213]

Charles Hendry: The Department, its predecessors and non-departmental public bodies have not provided any subsidies for clean coal production. Between 1997 and 2010 the Government spent £84.9 million on the research and development of carbon abatement technologies, including carbon capture and storage (CCS).

Fuel Poverty

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what date he has set for the eradication of fuel poverty in England and Wales. [7728]

Gregory Barker: The Government remain committed to doing all that is reasonably practicable to eradicate fuel poverty in all households in England by 2016.

As fuel poverty is a devolved issue, the Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for progress against their current target which is to do all that is reasonably practicable to eradicate fuel poverty in Wales by 2018.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken towards the eradication of fuel poverty in 2010; what steps he plans to take in the first six months of 2011; and if he will make a statement. [8588]

Gregory Barker: Government recently announced the extension of a more ambitious and targeted Carbon Emissions Reduction Target to December 2012, paving the way for the Green Deal. This extension will require a significant and urgent increase in home energy insulation. Through the extension we are requiring a greater focus on helping low income households than ever before. This will result in the investment of over £400 million in the most vulnerable GB homes.

Approximately 175,000 households are expected to be provided measures which can provide a long-term solution to fuel poverty. Many more will receive measures which will protect them from falling into fuel poverty.

We have the powers to introduce mandated social price support through the Energy Act 2010 and, subject to the outcome of the spending review and consultation, we intend to introduce the first scheme in 2011.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of households in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales which are in fuel poverty; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [8702]

Gregory Barker: In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 2,600 (7.1%) fuel poor households in the Southend West constituency, and 58,600 (8.5%) fuel poor households living in Essex.

In 2007, there were 2.8 million fuel poor households in England. The latest figure from the Welsh Assembly Government shows a projected figure of around 243,000 households in fuel poverty in 2006.

The new coalition Government are totally committed to helping the fuel poor. We welcome the useful recommendations from the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group's report and will respond to them fully. We must do more to help the most vulnerable to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost but it is clear that the old policies alone are not working effectively. We need to target assistance at those most in need, promote energy saving measures and greater competition in the energy market to ensure that falling wholesale energy prices get passed onto customers. We remain committed to doing all that is reasonably practicable to eradicate fuel poverty in all households in England by 2016.

Fuel Poverty: Staffordshire

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people resident in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth were classed as being in fuel poverty in each year since 2005. [9678]

Gregory Barker: Fuel poverty is measured at household level rather than at individual level.

Sub-regional figures are not available for 2005. In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 56,500 fuel poor households living in the county of Staffordshire and around 4,000 fuel poor households in the Tamworth constituency.

Land Use: Forests

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on sustainability criteria for land use, land-use change and forestry projects in the Clean Development Mechanism. [8619]

Gregory Barker: The Government are keen to ensure that land use, land-use change and forestry projects meet minimum sustainability and environmental criteria. We support requirements within the Kyoto Framework designed to ensure all projects meet local environmental assessment requirements, are subject to stakeholder comment, and are assessed to be in accordance with sustainable development by the host country. Responsibility for assessment of sustainable development in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) rests with the host country, though projects may be reviewed by the CDM Executive Board for a failure to meet local environmental assessment requirements, or for failure to consult stakeholders.

The Government play a procedural role in approving participation in CDM projects. When approving participation in projects, the Government require confirmation that any proposed projects meet sustainable development criteria as determined by the host countries, and confirmation that the project design document—including references to environmental assessment and stakeholder comments—is correct before issuing any letter of approval. We believe enforcement of the system is primarily a matter for the UN's Clean Development Mechanism Executive Board, and the Designated Operational Entity—a third party auditor responsible for validating the claims made in the Project Design Document, though false statements made in an application to the Government can result in prosecution.

Experience with projects in the forestry sector is limited—only 16 have been registered internationally and to date the Government have provided letters of approval for four forestry projects in the Clean Development Mechanism; one each in Chile, Colombia, Moldova and India.

Projects from the forest sector are not valid for compliance within the EU ETS, and other countries (many of which have detailed additional assessment requirements) are the principal purchasers of credits from this sector. The UK Government have not purchased credits from this sector.

Marine Renewable Deployment Fund

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funds his Department plans to allocate to the Wave and Tidal Stream Demonstration Scheme element of the Marine Renewable Deployment Fund in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012. [9723]

Gregory Barker: The Government are currently considering options for marine renewable energy funding as part of the comprehensive spending review.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's report Geological Disposal: Steps Towards Implementation. [8621]

Charles Hendry: The Government welcome the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) report "Geological Disposal: Steps towards implementation". We are committed to the implementation of geological disposal for higher activity radioactive waste, through safe and secure interim storage and a geological disposal facility siting process based on voluntarism and partnership.

"Geological Disposal: Steps towards implementation" is a positive move forward; it is important that the NDA set out its work programme and management arrangements to deliver geological disposal, as well as summarising the preparatory work undertaken so far.

The technical planning work undertaken by the NDA compliments that ongoing in the wider process where Government are working with the three communities to date that have 'expressed an interest' in finding out more about what hosting a facility might involve. The option for communities to 'Express an Interest' remains open and DECC officials are available to answer questions or advise any community who wishes to seek further information.

Oil Rigs

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he made of the effectiveness of the use of acoustic triggers on offshore rigs in his urgent review of the UK oil and gas industry. [8597]

Charles Hendry: Safety issues are not within the scope of DECC's review as they do not fall within the responsibilities of this Department. These are matters for the HSE.

The UK's Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group (whose membership includes industry, DECC and HSE) will however be considering relevant aspects of well design and control in their work to proactively identify and address cross industry issues concerning well control and oil spill response on the UKCS. This will include the effectiveness of blowout preventers and their triggering mechanisms.

Renewable Energy

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to encourage heavy energy users in the industrial sector to invest in on-site renewable energy generation. [8592]

Charles Hendry: There are existing financial incentives which aim to encourage on-site renewable electricity generation including the renewables obligation and the feed-in tariff. We are currently looking at these to see if there are ways of making them more effective. These schemes are not specific to heavy energy users, but are open to the whole industrial sector. We are also considering how best to support the generation of renewable heat.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much renewable energy is planned to be generated in the UK from offshore wind over each of the next five years. [9329]

Charles Hendry: As at 6 July 2010, over a gigawatt (GW) of offshore wind capacity has been installed. In addition:

1.5 GW is under construction;

the Government have granted consent for a further 2.6GW; and

applications have been submitted for a further 2.3GW.

Projects that could yield over 40 GW are at the "scoping stage" and have not yet submitted applications for consent.

Time scales for the development of these sites will depend on a number of factors.

The Government believe that offshore wind has an important role to play in meeting climate change targets and helping achieve energy security.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to develop a public communications programme to encourage participation in his Department's feed-in tariff scheme. [9535]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change provides information on feed-in tariffs on its website at:

www.decc.gov.uk/fits

which also contains links to other bodies that are helping to raise awareness of the scheme. Some of these include the Energy Savings Trust, the Carbon Trust and Ofgem.

The scheme has received extensive media coverage as well as being widely promoted by energy suppliers and those industries directly benefitting from the scheme.

The scheme has been running since 1 April and we are continually collecting data on uptake in order to feed into the review process.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure that tariffs for renewable heat are completed by April 2011. [9537]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 367-68W.

Renewable Energy: Housing

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the cost to households of installing renewable sources of energy. [7111]

Gregory Barker: The feed-in tariff provides financial support to encourage the uptake of small-scale, low carbon electricity generation.

We are also looking at the renewable heat incentive (RHI) proposals. Clearly there are benefits to the scheme, but we must also consider the impact of the costs, particularly given the financial constraints we must work within and the potential impact that funding options could have on vulnerable people. We will look to make an announcement on the future of the proposed scheme as soon as possible. The Government are committed to increasing the amount of renewable heat in the UK, this is a crucial part of ensuring we meet our renewables targets, cutting carbon and ensuring energy security.

There is further direct support from energy suppliers, made available as part of meeting their CERT obligation. Moreover, this support and the other measures we are taking should bring down the costs of these technologies through learning and economies of scale.

Our core Green Deal offer is intended to support the move to more energy efficient homes.

We expect Green Deal providers that insulate homes under the green deal will take the opportunity to offer packages under the Green Deal umbrella that include appropriate microgeneration.

Renewable Energy: Job Creation

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the opportunities for employment arising from the renewable energy industry. [9400]

Gregory Barker: Estimates based on Innovas projections and Labour Force survey data suggest that meeting our EU 2020 renewable energy target, combined with a growing market for renewable energy could contribute to the creation of up to half a million jobs in the UK renewable energy sector by 2020.

Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce his plans for the future of the renewable heat incentive. [8612]

Gregory Barker: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 367-68W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon).

River Severn: Tidal Power

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Severn Barrage Feasibility Study. [8657]

Charles Hendry: We are currently considering the recommendations from the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study and expect to report our conclusions shortly.

Tidal Power

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his department is taking to develop the UK Marine Renewable Strategy, with particular reference to funding for wave and tidal technologies. [9701]

Gregory Barker: We are committed to the success of the wave and tidal industry in the UK and to introducing measures to encourage marine energy technologies. We are currently considering how creating a network of Marine Energy Parks can work to push the sector forward.

The Government are currently considering options for marine renewable energy funding as part of the comprehensive spending review.

Warm Front Scheme: Essex

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the Warm Front programme in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend-on-Sea in each year since its inception; and what recent steps his Department has taken to (i) encourage take-up of energy efficiency measures and (ii) reduce the level of fuel poverty in Southend West constituency. [8703]

Gregory Barker: The following table indicates funding spent on energy efficiency measures by the Warm Front Scheme in (a) Essex and (b) Southend-on-Sea in each year since its inception[1]:

		£
	Essex	*Southend-on-Sea*
2005-06	2,000,189.00	1,057,290.72
2006-07	6,182,784.13	960,161.12
2007-08	9,468,843.84	1,009,969.25
2008-09	12,165,333.14	1,123,994.96
2009-10	18,863,847.71	1,462,541.32
Total	48,680,997.82	5,613,957.37

There are a range of programmes that promote energy efficiency measures including CESP, CERT and Warm Front. We have also announced our intention to introduce the Green Deal.

CESP targets designated low income areas across Great Britain with whole house energy efficiency retrofits.

We recently announced the extension of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target obligation on energy suppliers. Suppliers will now have to work much harder to lag lofts and walls and ensure more homes, especially low income households, receive measures that reduce fuel bills, improve thermal efficiency and cut carbon emissions.

Warm Front provides heating and energy efficiency measures and advice to vulnerable households. The following table indicates the total number of households assisted by Warm Front in the Southend West constituency in each year since its inception.

	Southend West
2005-06	354
2006-07	502
2007-08	547
2008-09	665
2009-10	497
Total	2,565

In addition, we have announced our intention to put in place the legal framework needed for a Green Deal that will provide energy efficiency improvements to homeowners at no up-front cost, with consumers repaying through the savings they make on their energy bills. This will mark a dramatic change in how we deliver improvements in the energy efficiency of properties in the UK.

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[1] The Warm Front Scheme started in 2000 however figures are only available from 2005, which is when Eaga, the Warm Front Scheme manager, took full control of the scheme.

Warm Front Scheme: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the Warm Front programme in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley in each year since its inception; and what recent steps his Department has taken to (i) encourage take-up of energy efficiency measures and (ii) reduce the level of fuel poverty in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in the last three years. [9402]

Gregory Barker: The following table indicates funding spent on energy efficiency measures by the Warm Front Scheme in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley in each year since its inception[1];

[1] The Warm Front Scheme started in 2000 however figures are only available from 2005, which is when Eaga, the Warm Front Scheme manager, took full control of the scheme.

		Spend (£)
	Bexleyheath and Crayford	*London borough of Bexley*
2005-06	130,526.00	499,898.96
2006-07	366,531.83	1,059,696.46
2007-08	399,561.79	1,031,686.11
2008-09	413,674.34	1,175,349.69
2009-10	280,679.84	964,285.95
Total	1,590,973.80	4,730,917.17

There are a range of programmes that promote energy efficiency measures including CESP, CERT and Warm Front. We have also announced our intention to introduce the Green Deal. CESP targets designated low income areas across Great Britain with whole house energy efficiency retrofits.

We recently announced the extension of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target obligation on energy suppliers. Suppliers will now have to work much harder to lag lofts and walls and ensure more homes, especially low income households, receive measures that reduce fuel bills, improve thermal efficiency and cut carbon emissions.

Warm Front provides heating and energy efficiency measures and advice to vulnerable households. The following table indicates the total number of households assisted by Warm Front in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in the last three years.

Bexleyheath and Crayford	*Number*
2007-08	316
2008-09	277
2009-10	225
Total	818

In addition, we have announced our intention to put in place the legal framework needed for a Green Deal that will provide energy efficiency improvements to homeowners at no up-front cost, with consumers repaying through the savings they make on their energy bills. This will mark a dramatic change in how we deliver improvements in the energy efficiency of properties in the UK.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department at each pay band have responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; what posts in his Department and its predecessors each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [8686]

Gregory Barker: The Department has three officials, supported by senior management, working specifically on the Fuel Poverty Strategy and the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act. A further six officials manage the delivery of the Warm Front Scheme.

In addition, other officials work on a range of policies within the Department that impact on fuel poverty, including domestic energy efficiency, the voluntary agreement with energy suppliers, social price support and data sharing. The officials have a range of experience from working both inside and outside Government.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the operation of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [8706]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with ministerial colleagues on a wide variety of topics.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the operation of *(a)* section 1 and *(b)* section 2 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Act; and whether he plans (i) to amend and (ii) to repeal this Act. [8708]

Gregory Barker: The latest report by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on the steps taken to implement the fuel poverty strategy required by Section 2 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 was published in October 2009. A copy of the report can be found on the Department's website at:

www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/fuelpoverty/
1_20091021091505_e_@@_UKFuelPovertyStrategy7AnnReport09.pdf

We have received representations on the definition of fuel poverty from three parties.

There are no plans at the current time to amend or repeal this Act.

Wind Power: Ports

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for development of ports to support offshore wind infrastructure. [8756]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to the development of UK manufacturing to support the growing offshore wind sector. Funding for offshore wind ports infrastructure has not been selected for suspension or cancellation as part of the recent cost cutting exercise, but as with all public spending it is being reviewed in the context of the spending review.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the likely cost to the NHS of treating alcohol-related health conditions in *(a)* 2015 and *(b)* 2020. [8879]

Anne Milton: No estimate has been made of the cost to the national health service of treating alcohol-related health conditions in 2015 and 2020. We plan to publish a White Paper on public health in the autumn, which will consider how to prevent future increases in ill health from alcohol misuse and associated costs.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of treating alcohol-related health conditions in each of the last 10 years. [8880]

Anne Milton: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, in 2003 the annual cost of alcohol misuse to the national health service in England was quantified at £1.4 billion—£1.7 billion in 2001 prices Cabinet Office (2003). Alcohol misuse: how much does it cost? Available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work_areas/alcohol_misuse/background.aspx

A more recent estimate of £2.7 billion per year for 2006-07 was published in Cost of alcohol harm to the NHS, Department of Health, 2007. Available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Closedconsultations/DH_086412?PageOperation=email

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has evaluated on the effects on the level of alcohol consumption of *(a)* price and *(b)* availability of alcohol. [8881]

Anne Milton: The Coalition programme for government includes a commitment to review alcohol taxation and pricing, to ensure it tackles binge drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers, pubs, and important local industries. Her Majesty's Treasury and the Home Office will jointly lead the review. It will report in the autumn and will take account of recent research.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued public health guidance, Alcohol-use disorders: preventing the development of hazardous and harmful drinking in June. This report, which is available at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH24

was based on a series of effectiveness reviews, which summarise and assess the evidence from research, including research on the availability of alcohol. This will be considered by the Department over the coming months.

Anaphylaxis: Health Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of treating emergency cases of anaphylaxis in NHS facilities in each of the last five years. [9311]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the cost to the national health service in England of treating non-elective (unplanned) admissions for shock and anaphylaxis in the last five years for which information has been collected. Information is not separately available for anaphylaxis.

	Total cost £ million
2004-05	1.1
2005-06	1.1
2006-07	1.4
2007-08	1.4
2008-09	1.6

Notes:

1. Figures taken from schedule 4 (NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) combined) of the national schedules of reference costs for the financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09 published at:
www.dh.gov.uk/nhscosting
2. Total costs are the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) and the number of excess bed days multiplied by their national average unit costs.
3. Figures are not comparable between years because:
(a) 2004-04 to 2005-06 costs were collected on Healthcare Resource Group version 3.5 (HRGv3.5) and include HRG code S26 Shock and Anaphylaxis.
(b) 2006-07 to 2008-09 costs were collected on Healthcare Resource Group 4 (HRG4) and include HRGs WA16W Shock and Anaphylaxis with complications or comorbidities and WA16Y Shock and Anaphylaxis without complications or comorbidities
(c) 2004-05 to 2006-07 costs include non-elective in-patients and observation wards and 2007-08 to 2008-09 costs include non-elective in-patients long and short stay.
4. The diagnosis codes from the International Classification of Diseases 10th revision (ICD-10) classification system which group to these HRGs are:
(a) T63.0 Toxic effect of snake venom
(b) T63.2 Toxic effect of venom of scorpion
(c) T63.4 Toxic effect of venom of other arthropods
(d) T63.5 Toxic effect of contact with fish
(e) T63.6 Toxic effect of contact with other marine animals
(f) T63.8 Toxic effect of contact with other venomous animals
(g) T63.9 Toxic effect of contact with unspecified venomous animal
(h) T75.0 Effects of lightning
(i) T75.4 Effects of electric current
(j) T78.0 Anaphylactic shock due to adverse food reaction
(k) T78.2 Anaphylactic shock, unspecified
(l) T79.4 Traumatic shock
(m) T80.5 Anaphylactic shock due to serum
(n) T81.1 Shock during or resulting from a procedure NEC
(o) T88.2 Shock due to anaesthesia
(p) T88.6 Anaphylactic shock due adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency cases of anaphylaxis were treated in NHS hospitals in each of the last five years. [9312]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the number of emergency admissions where the primary diagnosis was anaphylactic shock, also known as anaphylaxis. The number of admissions does not represent the number of patients as a patient may have been admitted more than once.

	Emergency finished admission episodes
2004-05	2,759
2005-06	2,984
2006-07	3,180
2007-08	3,299
2008-09	3,509

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Anger Management Treatment

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on anger management treatment for *(a)* women and *(b)* men in each of the last five years. [8732]

Mr Burstow: The provision and funding of local health services, including anger management, is a matter for local decision. We do not collect these figures centrally.

Ashfield Community Hospital

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the future of Ashfield Community Hospital. [8659]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for Nottinghamshire county primary care trust to improve community services to ensure they provide modern, personalised, and responsive care of a consistently high quality that is equally accessible to all patients.

Autism: Children

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that child and adolescent mental health services are able adequately to meet the needs of children with autism through *(a)* availability of specialist autism support and *(b)* autism training for all staff working in such services. [8377]

Mr Burstow: Staff working in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should have the necessary values, competencies, skills, and ongoing training to enable them to recognise and respond to the identified needs of children, including those with autism. We are looking at what might need to be done to ensure CAMHS offer proper support to those with autism spectrum disorders.

Baby Care Units: Standards

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department assesses the quality of services provided by maternity units. [9518]

Anne Milton: The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England and is therefore responsible for assuring the safety and quality of services provided by maternity units.

Change4Life Programme

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors he took into account on his decision to end his Department's funding for the Change4Life programme. [9019]

Anne Milton: The Department will continue to provide funding for the Change4Life campaign. The amount of taxpayers' money spent on Change4Life will be scaled back to focus on the core business of extending the campaign's reach and effectiveness.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding for the Change4Life programme he expects to be raised from the food industry. [9023]

Anne Milton: How much funding the food industry will contribute to the Change4Life campaign has yet to be discussed with representatives from food companies. Discussions will be taking place over the coming months to consider how funding arrangements will be developed from the existing support provided.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many buildings his Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [6853]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department occupies five buildings in London. It wholly occupies Richmond House, Skipton House, and Wellington House and partly occupies New Kings Beam House and Eastbourne Terrace. The Department occupies a total of 16 buildings in the United Kingdom which includes the London buildings listed above and additionally wholly occupies Hexagon House (Exeter), Vantage House (Leeds) and Units 8 and 9Hi Tech Village (Newcastle) and partially occupies Quarry House (Leeds), Premier Buildings (Nelson, Lancashire), Premier House (Reading), Castle View House (Runcorn), Hembury House (Exeter), Princes Exchange (Leeds), Prospect House (Redditch), and 1 Whitehall (Leeds) .

The response includes buildings occupied by staff in NHS Connecting for Health. In addition the Department has a number of staff in located in each on the Government Offices of the Regions.

Depressive Illnesses

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged (i) under 19, (ii) between 19 and 35 and (iii) over 35 years who were diagnosed with depression were subsequently referred to talking therapies and mutual support groups in each of the last five years. [8731]

Mr Burstow: Although the Department does not collect these statistics centrally, we do have access to the most recent Psychiatric Morbidity Survey (2007) figures. This provides data around the numbers of people with a common mental health disorder (CMD) by age and gender. It also provides this information by historic intervals. The following tables indicate the relevant data for the years 1993, 2000 and 2007:

Prevalence of CMD in past week in 1993, 2000 and 2007—Men

			Percentage
	Aged 16-34	*Aged 35-44*	*All men*
1993	11.5	12.8	11.9
2000	12.3	16.1	14.6
2007	13.8	15.0	13.6

Prevalence of CMD in past week in 1993, 2000 and 2007—Women

			Percentage
	Aged 16-34	*Aged 35-44*	*All women*
1993	20.0	19.8	19.1
2000	21.2	21.1	20.4

Prevalence of CMD in past week in 1993, 2000 and 2007—Women

			Percentage
	Aged 16-34	*Aged 35-44*	*All women*
2007	22.6	19.5	21.5

Prevalence of CMD in past week in 1993, 2000 and 2007—All

	All (percentage)
1993	15.5
2000	17.5
2007	17.6

Source:
Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey, 2007

We do not collect data to indicate the proportion of these individuals who are subsequently referred to talking therapies. However, we do know that from October 2008 to March 2010 the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme received 765,491 referrals. If the numbers referred for treatment continue to increase at the current rate in excess of 1.65 million people will be referred for talking therapies by March 2011. This is in line with the plans to see 900,000 people in the first three years of the programme. In year two, we have launched a further 111 sites and by 2011, we expect all 152 primary care trusts to begin to be implementing an IAPT service. Information on the number of people accessing psychological therapy services in primary and community settings was not collected centrally prior to the IAPT programme.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged (i) under 19, (ii) between 19 and 35 and (iii) over 35 years who are registered with a GP have been treated for depression by each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [8736]

Mr Burstow: We do know that as of April 2010 765,000 referrals had been made to Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services, with 321,000 people going on to enter the service. The most recent prevalence rates for common mental health disorder as recorded by the Psychiatric Morbidity Survey in 2007 is 17.6% (of the adult population aged 16 to 64).

The information requested is not collected centrally.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what percentage of *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged (i) under 19, (ii) between 19 and 35 and (iii) over 35 years who were diagnosed with depression were prescribed anti-depressants by each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [8737]

(2) what proportion of people aged *(a)* under 19, *(b)* between 19 and 35 and *(c)* over 35 years who were diagnosed with depression were female in the latest period for which figures are available; [8738]

(3) how much each primary care trust spent on anti-depressants for *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged (i) under 19, (ii) between 19 and 35 and (iii) over 35 years in each of the last five years; [8739]

(4) how much his Department has spent on anti-depressants for *(a)* women and *(b)* men in each of the last five years. [8742]

Mr Burstow: Information on the net ingredient cost of antidepressant prescription items[1] dispensed in the community in England for the period requested is shown in the following table.

	Net ingredient cost (£000)
2005	338,546.7
2006	291,511.4
2007	276,107.6
2008	247,355.1
2009	230,062.9

[1] Antidepressants have been defined as those products included in British National Formulary (BNF) chapter 4.3 (antidepressant drugs).

Source:
Prescribing Cost Analysis

Information on the number and net ingredient cost of antidepressant prescription items dispensed in the community by primary care trust has been placed in the Library.

Information on the gender of people with a current diagnosis of depression and information on the numbers, age and gender of people prescribed a medicine and the condition for which a medicine is prescribed, is not collected centrally.

Drugs: Misuse

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse uses of the term dependency in its official publications. [8751]

Anne Milton: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse uses the World Health Organisation's definition of dependency, which is contained in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10):

> "A cluster of behavioural, cognitive, and physiological phenomena that develop after repeated substance use and that typically include a strong desire to take the drug, difficulties in controlling its use, persisting in its use despite harmful consequences, a higher priority given to drug use than to other activities and obligations, increased tolerance, and sometimes a physical withdrawal state."

This definition is also used in the United Kingdom guidelines on clinical management of drug misuse and dependence and by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Eating Disorders: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on treatment for eating disorders with regard to *(a)* women and *(b)* men in each of the last five years. [8743]

Mr Burstow: The commissioning of services, including those to address self-harm is a local issue for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities. We do not collect this information centrally.

Food: Labelling

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received *(a)* for and *(b)* against the inclusion of traffic light warnings on labels for food and drink since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [9022]

Anne Milton: Three letters have been received regarding traffic light labelling on food products. All were in favour of traffic light labelling. No representations have been received against the use of traffic light labelling on food products.

General Practitioners

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of managerial and administrative staff who will be employed to operate the GP consortia proposed in the White Paper proposals for new commissioning; and if he will make a statement; [8996]

(2) whether his Department plans to provide funding for capital expenditure to establish the GP consortia proposed in the White Paper proposals for new commissioning; and if he will make a statement. [8997]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010, sets out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

We will shortly issue a document setting out our proposals in more detail. This will provide the basis for fuller engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public. It is therefore too early at this stage to say what this means for the numbers of managerial and administrative staff employed to operate the GP consortia.

Thus plans for funding for capital expenditure for GP consortia have not yet been made.

Health Services: Children

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations will assume the regulatory and policy functions of primary care trusts in respect of safeguarding children after the abolition of primary care trusts. [9464]

Anne Milton: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" sets out our strategy for reforming the national health service and a timetable of action to achieve it. The Health Bill to be introduced in the autumn will detail which organisations will assume the functions of primary care trusts, including those in respect of safeguarding, once they are abolished.

Health Services: Finance

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department allocated per head to acute care in each of the primary care trust review areas in each year since 2000. [8683]

Mr Simon Burns: Revenue allocations cover hospital and community health services, prescribing (the Drugs Bill) and, since 2006-07, primary medical services. The Department does not break down primary care trust (PCT) allocations by policy or by service area. PCTs make decisions on investment in health care for their communities, taking into account both local and national priorities.

Revenue allocations were first made to PCTs in 2003-04. Prior to 2003-04, revenue allocations were made to health authorities (HAs).

A table, setting out allocations per head to HAs from 2000-01 to 2002-03, and to PCTs from 2003-04 to 2010-11, has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Parking

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many car parking spaces at NHS hospitals in each region are available for use by *(a)* managerial staff, *(b)* members of the public, *(c)* consultants and *(d)* other clinical staff. [9475]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested.

Data on car parking spaces provided by the national health service are collected centrally through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). These data are provided on a voluntary basis by NHS foundation trusts and will therefore not be complete. The latest available data for 2008-09 are provided as follows by strategic health authority (SHA):

Strategic health authority	*Total disabled parking spaces*[1]	*Total parking spaces available for patients/visitors*[2]	*Total parking spaces available for staff*[3]
East Midlands	1,843	18,156	23,917
East of England	2,096	20,200	29,274
London	2,279	18,492	29,525
North East	1,063	13,547	16,485
North West	4,082	35,204	48,512
South Central	1,564	15,103	22,002
South East Coast	1,438	11,827	19,952
South West	1,779	18,118	26,982
West Midlands	2,864	21,396	36,532
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,357	22,558	31,430

The ERIC data definitions used were:

[1] *Total disabled parking spaces.*

Total number of disabled car parking spaces available within the organisational grounds for disabled staff and visitors.

[2] *Total parking spaces available for patients/visitors*

Total number of car parking spaces available for use by patients and visitors within the organisational grounds, inclusive of relevant disabled parking spaces.

[3] *Total parking spaces available for staff*

Total number of car parking spaces available for use by staff within the organisational grounds, inclusive of relevant disabled parking spaces.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

The provision of hospital car parking is decided locally by individual trusts to best support their services.

Kingston Hospital: Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the *(a)* future and *(b)* future funding of Kingston Hospital. [9220]

Mr Simon Burns: We are informed by NHS London that there are no plans for significant changes to Kingston hospital.

The Department does not allocate funding directly to hospitals. Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts (PCTs), and it is for PCTs to commission services from hospitals and other providers to meet the health care needs of their local communities, taking account of national and local priorities.

This Government will devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to the health care professionals closest to patients: general practitioners and their consortiums.

Medical Consultants: Sick Leave

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical consultants were recorded as taking stress-related leave in each region in each year since 2000. [8682]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is only available from local national health service organisations. If medical consultants are on the national pay scale they can be identified on the Electronic Staff Records System (ESR) but there is no standard reporting tool to enable extraction of national ESR data on sickness absence by reason.

Medical Records: Databases

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the summary care records programme. [6109]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (Mr David Davis) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 44W.

Mental Health Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP consultations held with *(a)* female and *(b)* male patients aged (i) under 19, (ii) between 19 and 35 and (iii) over 35 years were related to common mental disorders in each of the last five years. [8730]

Mr Burstow: This is information is not collected centrally.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much talking therapies have cost each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [8735]

(2) how much each primary care trust spent on cognitive behavioural therapy for *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged (i) under 19, (ii) between 19 and 35 and (iii) over 35 years in each of the last five years. [8740]

Mr Burstow: At a national level the Government have invested significant resources as part of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. This investment was £33 million in 2008-09, £103 million in 2009-10 and £173 million in 2010-11. The £173 million per annum funding will be recurrent following the end of the current comprehensive spending review period.

These data are not centrally collected.

Mental Health Services: Waiting Lists

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times for talking therapies were for *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged (i) under 19, (ii) between 19 and 35 and (iii) over 35 years in each of the last five years. [8734]

Mr Burstow: A key aim of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is to improve access to talking therapy services. This entails reducing levels of unmet need and waiting times for services for people who do come forward and seek treatment. The intention of the IAPT programme is to provide rapid access for assessment and treatment for people with diagnosable conditions. While the waiting times standards to be achieved by each service are locally derived (and therefore locally collected), national best practice indicates that the end-to-end waiting time from referral to treatment commencing should be no more than four weeks.

Mental Health: Death

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been undertaken to establish the average age of death for people with severe mental illness in England since publication of the 2006 Disability Rights Commission report, Closing the Gap. [8537]

Mr Burstow: We are unaware of any research which has been undertaken in this field, however we recognise that this is a serious problem. We expect to address it in our future plans for public health.

Mental Health: Patients

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rates of readmission of mental health in-patients within *(a)* 30 days and *(b)* 90 days were in each primary care trust in each of the last three years. [8555]

Mr Burstow: The information requested is not collected.

Mental Health: Psychotherapists

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to extend access to psychological therapies recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to people with severe mental illness who are not eligible for treatment through the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. [8553]

Mr Burstow: The Government set out in the Coalition agreement, 'our programme for government', a commitment to ensure greater access to talking therapies to reduce long-term costs for the national health service. This is a clear public health priority for us and we are currently working to identify how best to take it forward.

Revised National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on schizophrenia was published in March 2009. This outlines the best way to treat and manage adults with schizophrenia in primary and secondary care. The guidance recommends that treatments such as cognitive behavioural therapy should be offered to all people with schizophrenia.

Psychological therapies can be a key element of the treatment of people with severe and enduring mental health conditions, particularly when these conditions are experienced alongside depression and anxiety disorders. In these cases, the delivery of cognitive behavioural therapy and other NICE-compliant therapies is the recommended treatment. Services for these clients is largely provided by psychology departments in specialist mental health trusts. The implementation of Improving access to Psychological Therapies services for people in community settings with mild to moderate conditions can reduce the number of referrals to specialist mental health trusts and enable them to focus on providing services to those with severe and enduring mental illness.

General practitioners or consultant psychiatrists can prescribe any medicine or treatment which they consider to be necessary for treating NHS patients, including NICE-approved treatments, provided that the local primary care trust or NHS trust agree to supply it on the NHS. Clinicians are responsible for deciding on the most appropriate form of treatment for their patients, and in doing so they are expected to take NICE guidance fully into account. The Department does not become involved in making clinical decisions.

NHS: Discharges

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his estimate is of the cost to the NHS of delayed discharges in each year since 1997; [8673]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of delayed discharges in the NHS on *(a)* cost to the NHS, *(b)* waiting times for operations and *(c)* the incidence of hospital-acquired infections in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [8675]

Mr Burstow: We have made no estimate of the cost to the national health service of delayed discharges, or the effect these delays have on waiting times for operations and the incidence of hospital-acquired infections.

Since 5 January 2004, if social services are solely responsible for a patient being delayed in hospital, the local authority is liable to pay the NHS a charge per day of £100 (£120 in London and certain areas of the south-east) for the delay.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of delayed discharges in the NHS; [8674]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to work with those local authorities which operate care homes for the elderly to reduce the number of delayed discharges in the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [8691]

(3) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of delayed discharges from hospital on *(a)* local authority and *(b)* private sector elderly care homes in (i) England and (ii) Southend on Sea. [8692]

Mr Burstow: Since 5 January 2004, if social services are solely responsible for a patient being delayed in hospital, the local authority is liable to pay the national health service a charge per day of £100 (£120 in London and certain areas of the south-east) for the delay.

A wide range of services known as intermediate care are offered to help people recuperate after an in-patient stay with a view to, wherever possible, enabling the individual to continue to live independently in the community. Where appropriate, some or all of the intermediate care package may include a time-limited stay in a care home.

The Community Care (Delayed Discharges, etc.) Act 2003 placed new duties on the NHS and councils relating to joint working between health and social care systems and with patients and carers around hospital discharge. Councils were allocated an extra £100 million a year to defray the cost of reimbursement. To the extent that they are able to reduce delays they can retain any cash "saved" from the £100 million to invest in new services locally.

We have made no assessment of the effects of delayed discharges from hospital on local authority and private sector elderly care homes.

NHS: Employment Agencies

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the practice of NHS staff working as agency staff in the same hospital in which they are employed by the NHS. [8045]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no national policies, which prevent staff from legitimately working for both the national health service and a private agency at the same NHS trust.

It is for local NHS organisations to plan and deliver a workforce appropriate to the needs of their local population, based on clinical need and sound evidence.

The appropriate use of agency staff and effective management of agency costs is a high priority in the NHS, and the Department and NHS Employers will shortly be issuing joint guidance to NHS organisations on the best practice use of flexible staff.

We will be looking into this matter carefully.

Nutrition: Health Education

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what conditions food and drinks companies will be engaged to provide funding for new programmes on food and health. [9018]

Anne Milton: The conditions under which food and drinks companies will be engaged to provide funding for new programmes on food and health have yet to be finalised. Discussions will be taking place over the coming months to consider this issue.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has received recent indications of interest in funding health education programmes from food and drinks companies; [9020]

(2) what recent meetings he has had with representatives of food and drink companies to discuss health education programmes; and when each such meeting was held. [9021]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health has not received any recent indications of interest nor had any recent meetings with representatives of food and drink companies to discuss health education programmes. We intend to meet with representatives and other partners in the coming weeks and months to discuss their contribution to improving public health.

Obesity: Children

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the role of schools on engaging parents in discussions on their children's weight. [9357]

Anne Milton: As part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), primary care trusts (PCTs) are currently responsible for weighing and measuring children aged four-five years and 10-11 years, informing parents about their child's results and providing follow-up advice and support to parents. Schools do not receive data that would enable them to identify the results for an individual child.

In March this year, the Department of Health and Department for Education issued guidance to schools, "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: National Child Measurement Programme Guidance for Schools 2010/11". This guidance states the purpose of the programme and what schools can do to support the programme. It also provides details of additional material which might be helpful for explaining the NCMP to children and parents/carers.

The guidance explains that schools may want to use the NCMP as a tool to help engage pupils and parents/carers in whole school activities and programmes that support a healthy weight. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

Schools can request feedback on the results of the programme for their school from the PCT. However schools will not receive raw data. This is because small numbers of children in the school mean that school-level analysis of obesity prevalence is unreliable. There is also a risk that individual children may be identified, especially where data is broken down by sex or ethnicity.

Schools will usually receive school-level feedback that shows how prevalence of overweight and obesity compares with their local or regional average, for example, whether the prevalence of obesity at the school is higher than or lower than the local or regional average. This approach maintains the confidentiality of individual children's results.

Patients' Rights

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to increase the information available to NHS patients to enable them to make choices about their treatment programmes. [9214]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', published on 12 July 2010, set out the Government's plans for an information revolution in the national health service. The Information Strategy, which will be published later this year, will provide further detail on how the Government plan to implement the changes set out in the White Paper.

Self-harm

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of a cross-departmental Government strategy to reduce the incidence of self-harm, including the provision of *(a)* training for front-line staff and *(b)* information and education services; and if he will make a statement. [9030]

Mr Burstow: We will be assessing our priorities carefully and will announce details on mental health policy, in due course. Our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive to patients' choice and management of their own care, and delivering best 'health' outcomes.

The national health service will be backed with increased real resources yet we recognise that there are still efficiencies to be made, however, we intend to make sure front-line services in the NHS as a whole are protected from cuts.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with Ministerial colleagues in the devolved administrations the merits of jointly-agreed public health strategy to address self-harm; and if he will make a statement. [9086]

Mr Burstow: We will be assessing our priorities carefully and will announce details on mental health policy, including self-harm, in due course. Our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive to patients' choice and management of their own care, and delivering best 'health' outcomes.

The national health service will be backed with increased real resources yet we recognise that there are still efficiencies to be made, however, we intend to make sure front-line services in the NHS as a whole are protected from cuts.

Self-harm: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each primary care trust spent to address self harm with regard to *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged (i) under 19, (ii) between 19 and 35 and (iii) over 35 years in each of the last five years. [8741]

Mr Burstow: The commissioning of services, including those to address self-harm is a local issue for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities. We do not collect this information centrally.

Tobacco: Sales

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the further regulation of tobacco vending machines. [8975]

Anne Milton: Provisions already in place in the Health Act 2009 and related regulations will prohibit sales of tobacco products from vending machines from 1 October 2011.

However, discussions are taking place across Government to decide how best to tackle smoking prevalence in the context of our focus on public health and our priorities, given the challenges facing business competition and costs.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to remove tobacco displays from the point of sale. [8976]

Anne Milton: Provisions already in place in the Health Act 2009 and related regulations will prohibit tobacco displays in large shops from 1 October 2011 and in small shops from 1 October 2013.

However, discussions are taking place across Government to decide how best to tackle this issue in the context of our focus on public health and our priorities, given the challenges facing business competition and costs.

EDUCATION

Academies: Dudley

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Dudley have applied for academy status; and if he will make a statement. [1512]

Mr Gibb: No schools in Dudley have yet applied.

Children: Databases

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on first quarter grant payments to each local authority in the West Midlands in respect of the ContactPoint database in June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [8404]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has provided grant funding to local authorities and national partners to support the local implementation of ContactPoint. The following amounts were made in grant payments to the 14 children's services authorities in the West Midlands in the first quarter of the 2010-11 financial year.

	£
Birmingham City Council	54,887.75
Coventry City Council	24,005.50
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	23,747.75
Herefordshire County Council	18,788.00
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	23,830.00
Shropshire County Council	22,727.00
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	20,246.25
Staffordshire County Council	41,518.25
Stoke-on-Trent Council	20,898.50
Telford and the Wrekin Council	19,135.50
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	22,574.25
Warwickshire County Council	31,429.00
Wolverhampton City Council	21,429.25
Worcestershire County Council	32,338.75
Total	377,555.75

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7508]

Tim Loughton: Details of the amount spent on televisions in each year since 1997 by the Department for Education, its predecessors and all NDPBs are unable to be provided within the requested deadline as this would incur disproportionate costs.

The amount spent on televisions within the Department for Education and its predecessors within the last three years is £19,912.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7571]

Tim Loughton: Legal advice to the Department for Education and its predecessors, the Department of Children, Schools and Families, the Department for Education and Employment, and the Department for Education and Skills, is provided primarily by the Department's Legal Directorate. The annual cost, rounded to the nearest pound, of running Legal Directorate is as follows. There are no centrally-held figures for any financial years before 2004-05. The Legal Directorate provided a shared service to the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills from June 2007 to November 2009.

The figures include this cost.

	£
2004-05	4,112,681
2005-06	3,950,842
2006-07	4,341,944
2007-08	4,850,186
2008-09	4,765,905
2009-10	4,627,417

The Department's NDPBs hold their own information on expenditure on legal advice. This information is being collected and a letter with these details will be placed in the House Libraries by the end of July.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7628]

Tim Loughton: Details of the amounts spent on light bulbs since 1997 by DFE, its predecessors and all NDPBs are unable to be provided within the requested deadline as this would incur disproportionate costs.

The DFE head office building in London has retained records of expenditure on light bulbs since 2007. Details of those costs are as follows:

	£
2007	2,966.65
2008	2,016.45
2009	2,446.08
2010	[1]1,046.68

[1] To date

Departmental Relocation

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8300]

Tim Loughton: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7465]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The information requested is not separately identified within the Department's published resource accounts. The requested information could be obtained through a detailed analysis of local buying records and contracts with suppliers but this could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

(b) The Department does not obtain information at that level of detail from each of our non departmental public bodies. It could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

GCE A-level

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils resident in the *(a)* bottom and *(b)* top 10 per cent. of lower super output areas gained three A grades at A-level in 2009. [5448]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is available in the following table.

Number of candidates resident[1] in the bottom and top 10% of IDACI deciles[2] achieving three or more A grades at A-level, 2008/09

IDACI decile[2]	*Resident 16 to 18-year-old candidates[1, 3] entered for GCE/Applied GCE A-levels and Double Awards*	*Number of resident candidates achieving 3 or more A grades[4] at GCE/Applied GCE A-level and Double Awards*	*Percentage of resident candidates achieving 3 or more A grades[4] at GCE/Applied GCE A-level and Double Awards*
0-10% (ie most deprived)	15,722	711	4.5
90-100% (ie) least deprived	32,355	4,339	13.4

[1] Includes pupils resident in England attending LA maintained schools with sixth forms, CTCs and FE sector colleges.

[2] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices 2007. Each SOA in England is given a score which ranks it between 1 and 32,482, 1 being the most deprived.

[3] Age at the start of the 2008/09 academic year ie 31 August 2008.

[4] An Applied Double Award at grade AA counts as two grade As, an award at grade AB counts as one.

Source:

National Pupil Database (final data)

GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many pupils in each decile of the index of multiple deprivation eligible for free school meals gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics in each of the last 10 years; [5444]

(2) what percentage of pupils in *(a)* the lowest (i) 10 per cent. and (ii) one per cent. and *(b)* the highest (A) 10% and (B) one% of lower super output areas gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics in 2009; [5445]

(3) how many pupils in the *(a)* bottom and *(b)* top 10 per cent. of lower super output areas gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, a science and a modern language in 2009. [5447]

Mr Gibb: The information available by each decile of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) (a subset of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation) has been placed in the House of Commons Library, alongside a selection of data available on the Department's In Your Area web site. The Department uses IDACI to analyse pupil attainment in deprived areas and information about whether a pupil achieved five or more GCSEs or equivalent including English and maths GCSEs has only been available on the Department's National Pupil Database since the 2003/04 academic year. The information has been split into two separate tables as IDACI deciles for the years 2003/04 to 2006/07 are based on the 2004 IDACI scores, while IDACI deciles for the years 2007/08 to 2008/09 are based on the 2007 IDACI scores. The 2007 IDACI scores are updated versions of the 2004 scores, however there were some changes in the scoring criteria which means that care should be taken when comparing the two.

Number of pupils resident[1] in the bottom and top 10% of IDACI deciles[2] and bottom and top 1% of IDACI percentiles[2] achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A to C including equivalents, including English and mathematics GCSEs, 2008/09*

	Percentage	*Number of pupils at the end of KS4[1]*	*Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent, including English and maths GCSEs*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent, including English and maths GCSEs*
IDACI decile[2]	0-10 most deprived	67,292	22,395	33.3
	90-100 least deprived	52,612	37,967	72.2
IDACI percentile[2]	0-1 most deprived	7,180	2,384	33.2

Number of pupils resident[1] in the bottom and top 10% of IDACI deciles[2] and bottom and top 1% of IDACI percentiles[2] achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A to C including equivalents, including English and mathematics GCSEs, 2008/09*

	Percentage	*Number of pupils at the end of KS4[1]*	*Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent, including English and maths GCSEs*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent, including English and maths GCSEs*
	99-100 least deprived	5,034	3,904	77.6

[1] Includes pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2008/09 and resident in England, attending LA maintained schools, including CTCs and academies.

[2] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices. Each SOA in England is given a score which ranks it between 1 and 32,482, 1 being the most deprived.

Source:

National Pupil Database (final data)

Number of pupils resident[1] in the bottom and top 10% of IDACI deciles[2] achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A to C including equivalents, including English and mathematics, science and a modern language[3], 2008/09*

	Percentage	*Number of pupils at the end of KS4[1]*	*Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent, including English and maths, science and a modern language[3]*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent, including English and maths, science and a modern language[3]*
IDACI decile[2]	0-10 most deprived	67,292	7,811	11.6
	90-100 least deprived	52,612	22,524	42.8

[1] Includes pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2008/09 and resident in England, attending LA maintained schools, including CTCs and academies.

[2] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices. Each SOA in England is given a score which ranks it between 1 and 32,482, 1 being the most deprived.

[3] Pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent, including English and maths (GCSE only), science (GCSE only) and a Modern Foreign Language (GCSE and equivalents).

Source:

National Pupil Database (final data)

Schools: Admissions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary short stay school places are available in each local authority area. [7552]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The legislative provision which changed the name of pupil referral units to short stay schools was to be commenced on 1 September 2010. We have decided to delay commencement and plan to introduce provisions in Parliament in due course to repeal the name change. In the meantime pupil referral units will continue to be called by that name.

Information on the number of places available in pupil referral units (PRUs) is not available, however, information on the number of pupils in PRUs is shown in the following table.

Pupil referral units: number of pupils by age[1, 2] as at January 2010, in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils aged:[2]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
England	40	600	12,260	340	13,240
North East	0	20	530	30	580
Darlington	0	x	70	x	80
Durham	0	10	80	0	90
Gateshead	0	x	90	0	90
Hartlepool	0	0	x	0	x
Middlesbrough	0	0	50	10	70
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	10	90	0	100
North Tyneside	0	0	x	10	20
Northumberland	0	x	10	0	10
Redcar and Cleveland	0	x	70	0	70
South Tyneside	0	0	20	0	20
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	20	0	20
Sunderland	0	x	30	0	30
North West	10	120	1,910	10	2,040
Blackburn with Darwen	0	x	80	x	80
Blackpool	0	x	250	0	250
Bolton	10	50	90	x	140
Bury	0	0	90	0	90
Cheshire East	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire West and Chester	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	x	50	0	60
Halton	0	0	40	0	40
Knowsley	0	0	70	0	70
Lancashire	0	10	290	0	310
Liverpool	0	10	60	0	70

Pupil referral units: number of pupils by age[1,2] as at January 2010, in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils aged:[3]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
Manchester	0	20	120	0	140
Oldham	0	0	130	0	130
Rochdale	0	10	60	0	70
Salford	0	x	90	0	100
Sefton	0	x	160	0	160
St Helens	0	0	40	0	40
Stockport	0	0	70	10	80
Tameside	0	10	70	0	80
Trafford	0	0	10	0	10
Warrington	0	0	20	0	20
Wigan	0	0	60	0	60
Wirral	0	0	60	0	60
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	50	960	10	1,020
Barnsley	0	10	60	0	70
Bradford	0	20	240	0	260
Calderdale	0	x	40	0	40
Doncaster	0	10	130	0	140
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	x	0	x
Kingston upon Hull, City of	0	x	30	10	50
Kirklees	0	0	60	0	60
Leeds	0	x	70	0	70
North East Lincolnshire	0	x	20	0	20
North Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	70	0	70
Rotherham	0	0	20	0	20
Sheffield	0	0	50	0	50
Wakefield	0	0	70	0	70
York	0	x	100	0	100
East Midlands	0	80	1,100	0	1,170
Derby	0	20	160	0	180
Derbyshire	0	0	190	0	190
Leicester	0	10	30	0	40
Leicestershire	0	20	40	0	60
Lincolnshire	0	10	230	0	230
Northamptonshire	0	0	190	0	190
Nottingham	0	10	120	0	130
Nottinghamshire	0	10	160	0	170
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	x	90	1,340	30	1,460
Birmingham	x	40	270	x	310
Coventry	0	x	100	0	100
Dudley	0	x	20	0	30
Herefordshire	0	0	50	0	50
Sandwell	0	10	80	30	120
Shropshire	0	x	50	0	50
Solihull	0	x	120	0	130
Staffordshire	0	10	180	x	190
Stoke-on-Trent	0	x	10	0	20
Telford and Wrekin	0	x	140	0	140
Walsall	0	0	50	0	50
Warwickshire	0	10	110	0	120
Wolverhampton	0	x	120	0	120
Worcestershire	0	10	50	0	60
East of England	0	70	1,030	10	1,100
Bedford	0	x	70	0	70
Cambridgeshire	0	0	100	0	100
Central Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	10	190	x	210
Hertfordshire	0	0	190	0	190

Pupil referral units: number of pupils by age[1,2] as at January 2010, in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils aged:[2]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
Luton	0	0	20	0	20
Norfolk	0	20	170	x	180
Peterborough	0	10	90	0	90
Southend-on-Sea	0	x	40	0	40
Suffolk	0	10	100	10	120
Thurrock	0	10	70	0	80
London	30	130	2,720	220	3,100
Inner London	30	70	1,340	200	1,640
Camden	30	10	30	0	60
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	0	x	190	0	190
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	x	150	0	150
Haringey	0	0	70	x	80
Islington	0	10	70	x	80
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	30	0	30
Lambeth	0	20	200	20	240
Lewisham	0	x	120	0	120
Newham	x	0	90	180	270
Southwark	0	20	80	0	100
Tower Hamlets	0	0	190	x	190
Wandsworth	0	0	100	x	100
Westminster	0	0	40	0	40
Outer London	0	60	1,380	20	1,460
Barking and Dagenham	0	10	210	x	230
Barnet	0	0	60	10	70
Bexley	0	20	90	0	110
Brent	0	x	110	x	120
Bromley	0	0	80	0	80
Croydon	0	20	160	x	180
Ealing	0	x	90	0	90
Enfield	0	0	50	0	50
Greenwich	0	0	80	0	80
Harrow	0	10	60	0	70
Havering	0	x	80	0	80
Hillingdon	0	0	30	0	30
Hounslow	0	x	90	0	90
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	10	0	10
Merton	0	0	20	0	20
Redbridge	0	0	70	0	70
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	10	0	10
Sutton	0	0	70	0	70
Waltham Forest	0	0	10	0	10
South East	x	40	1,720	20	1,780
Bracknell Forest	0	x	40	x	40
Brighton and Hove	0	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	80	x	80
East Sussex	0	x	60	0	70
Hampshire	0	x	270	0	280
Isle of Wight	0	0	20	0	20
Kent	0	x	430	10	440
Medway	0	0	110	0	110
Milton Keynes	0	x	60	0	60
Oxfordshire	0	0	110	0	110
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	0	10	130	x	130
Slough	0	0	70	x	80
Southampton	0	0	50	0	50
Surrey	x	20	120	x	140
West Berkshire	0	0	40	10	40
West Sussex	0	x	100	0	100

Pupil referral units: number of pupils by age[1] [2] as at January 2010, in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils aged:[2]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	10	0	10
Wokingham	0	0	10	0	10
South West	0	20	960	10	990
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	0	x	30	0	30
Bristol, City of	0	0	80	x	90
Cornwall	0	x	30	0	30
Devon	0	0	120	0	120
Dorset	0	x	60	0	60
Gloucestershire	0	10	100	0	110
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	0	x	30	0	30
Plymouth	0	0	120	0	120
Poole	0	0	20	0	20
Somerset	0	x	100	x	100
South Gloucestershire	0	x	50	x	50
Swindon	0	x	120	x	120
Torbay	0	0	20	0	20
Wiltshire	0	0	90	x	90

"x" = fewer than five pupils.

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils. Includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges. Excludes 2,310 dual main registered pupils and 8,360 dual subsidiary registered pupils.

[2] Age as at 31 August 2009.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Pupil Referral Unit Census.

Schools: Finance

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of his Department's expenditure on education to be delivered to schools directly in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [956]

Mr Gibb: Revenue funding for maintained schools currently goes through local authorities. We have inherited a needlessly complex system of funding which it is our intention to simplify.

The core element of maintained school revenue funding is the Dedicated Schools Grant, which the Department distributes to local authorities, who then allocate it to schools in consultation with their Schools Forum. The total Dedicated Schools Grant allocation for financial year 2010-11 is £30.6 billion (this is post the removal of an estimate of academy recoupment). Data on school budgets for 2010-11 are an Official Statistic that are due to be published in September 2010 and will be titled 'Financial reports on Local Authority planned budgets for their education and children's social care functions: 2010-11 (section 251 formerly s52)'. These Official Statistics will also inform how much of the Dedicated Schools Grant has been held centrally by the local authority. In 2009-10 approximately £26.1 billion, excluding funding from the Learning and Skills Council, was budgeted for schools directly as reported by local authorities as at November 2008. This represents approximately 88% of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2009-10 of £29.6 billion (post recoupment for Academies). Assuming that the proportion of the Dedicated Schools Grant that is passed to schools remains constant, is approximately £27.0 billion would be passed directly to schools in 2010-11.

In addition to the Dedicated Schools Grants there are several grants which are fully passported direct to schools via the local authority. The totals for these grants for financial year 2010-11 are:

School Standards Grant and School Standard Grant (Personalisation) = £1.6 billion;

School Development Grant = £1.9 billion.

In addition, there are some grants where a component of the grant may be held by the local authority if agreed by the Schools Forum but else otherwise are passed to schools:

Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant = £202 million;

School Lunch grant = £76 million.

Total Devolved Formula Capital grant payable to maintained schools amounts to £600 million in 2010-11, after deducting an advance of £377 million that was made in 2009-10. The equivalent figure for Academies (i.e. net of advance), excluding 80 September 2010 openers which have the grant paid to them via their local authorities, is £12.3 million.

Academies are funded directly by the Department through the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA). Academy funding includes a school budget share which is based on the principle of equivalency of funding within any particular local authority. In addition, there are start-up grants, funding in lieu of local authority centrally retained budgets for activities that academies are responsible for, a grant for VAT and other grants as paid to maintained schools for which academies are also eligible. Academies are funding on an academic year basis. The financial year 2010-11 cost is not precisely known as academic year 2010-11 allocations are not complete for all academies. However, the initial transfer to the YPLA for grant to open academies for financial 2010-11, as set out in the agency's remit letter, is £1.72 billion.

Until the above-mentioned Official Statistics are published, it is not possible to proportion out the funding that is allocated to schools precisely. However, considering the above estimates, approximately 67% of the Department's planned expenditure on schools of £49.084 billion would be passed to schools directly in 2010-11. This equates to 57% of the total £57.775 billion of the Departmental Expenditure Limit for 2010-11 as reported in the Departmental Annual Report 2009.

Special Educational Needs

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age with statements of special educational needs are placed in short stay schools in each local authority area. [7556]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The legislative provision which changed the name of pupil referral units to short stay schools was to be commenced on 1 September 2010. We have decided to delay commencement and plan to introduce provisions in Parliament in due course to repeal the name change. In the meantime pupil referral units (PRUs) will continue to be called by that name.

The requested information relating to PRUs is shown in the following table.

Pupil referral units: number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs by age[1, 2] as at January 2010 in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs aged:[2]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
England	x	200	1,470	30	1,700
North East	0	x	20	0	30
Darlington	0	0	x	0	x
Durham	0	0	0	0	0
Gateshead	0	x	10	0	10
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	0	0	10	0	10
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	0	0	0
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	0	x	x	0	x
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	x	0	x
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	x	0	x
Sunderland	0	0	0	0	0
North West	0	20	160	0	190
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	10	0	10
Blackpool	0	0	10	0	10
Bolton	0	10	10	0	20
Bury	0	0	10	0	10
Cheshire East	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire West and Chester	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	x	10	0	10
Halton	0	0	x	0	x
Knowsley	0	0	10	0	10
Lancashire	0	10	10	0	20
Liverpool	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester	0	x	x	0	x
Oldham	0	0	40	0	40
Rochdale	0	x	0	0	x
Salford	0	0	x	0	x
Sefton	0	0	20	0	20
St. Helens	0	0	10	0	10
Stockport	0	0	10	0	10
Tameside	0	x	0	0	x
Trafford	0	0	x	0	x
Warrington	0	0	0	0	0
Wigan	0	0	10	0	10
Wirral	0	0	10	0	10
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	20	200	0	230
Barnsley	0	10	20	0	20
Bradford	0	10	120	0	130

Pupil referral units: number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs by age[1, 2] as at January 2010 in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs aged:[2]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
Calderdale	0	x	x	0	x
Doncaster	0	x	10	0	10
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	0	x	x	0	10
Kirklees	0	0	10	0	10
Leeds	0	0	x	0	x
North East Lincolnshire	0	x	10	0	10
North Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	10	0	10
Rotherham	0	0	10	0	10
Sheffield	0	0	x	0	x
Wakefield	0	0	10	0	10
York	0	x	10	0	20
East Midlands	0	20	130	0	160
Derby	0	x	10	0	20
Derbyshire	0	0	40	0	40
Leicester	0	10	0	0	10
Leicestershire	0	10	x	0	10
Lincolnshire	0	x	40	0	40
Northamptonshire	0	0	20	0	20
Nottingham	0	0	x	0	x
Nottinghamshire	0	x	20	0	20
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	30	150	x	170
Birmingham	0	10	x	0	20
Coventry	0	x	10	0	10
Dudley	0	x	0	0	x
Herefordshire	0	0	10	0	10
Sandwell	0	x	x	0	10
Shropshire	0	x	10	0	10
Solihull	0	0	30	0	30
Staffordshire	0	x	20	x	20
Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	0	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	0	0	10	0	10
Walsall	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	x	20	0	20
Wolverhampton	0	0	50	0	50
Worcestershire	0	0	0	0	0
East of England	0	40	130	x	160
Bedford	0	x	10	0	10
Cambridgeshire	0	0	10	0	10
Central Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	x	10	0	20
Hertfordshire	0	0	10	0	10
Luton	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	0	10	20	0	30
Peterborough	0	x	10	0	10
Southend-on-Sea	0	x	0	0	x
Suffolk	0	10	30	x	40
Thurrock	0	10	20	0	20
London	x	50	280	10	340
Inner London	x	30	120	10	160
Camden	x	10	x	0	10
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	0	x	20	0	20
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	20	0	20
Haringey	0	0	20	0	20
Islington	0	x	10	x	10
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	x	0	x

Pupil referral units: number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs by age[1, 2] as at January 2010 in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs aged:[2]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
Lambeth	•	10	x	0	10
Lewisham	•	0	10	0	10
Newham	•	0	10	x	10
Southwark	•	x	0	0	x
Tower Hamlets	•	0	20	x	20
Wandsworth	•	0	20	x	20
Westminster	•	0	0	0	0
Outer London	•	20	160	x	180
Barking and Dagenham	•	10	30	0	30
Barnet	•	0	x	x	x
Bexley	•	x	10	0	10
Brent	•	x	10	x	20
Bromley	•	0	10	0	10
Croydon	•	x	10	x	20
Ealing	•	x	10	0	20
Enfield	•	0	x	0	x
Greenwich	•	0	x	0	x
Harrow	•	x	x	0	10
Havering	•	0	10	0	10
Hillingdon	•	0	0	0	0
Hounslow	•	0	40	0	40
Kingston upon Thames	•	0	0	0	0
Merton	•	0	x	0	x
Redbridge	•	0	10	0	10
Richmond upon Thames	•	0	0	0	0
Sutton	•	0	10	0	10
Waltham Forest	•	0	0	0	0
South East	x	20	240	10	260
Bracknell Forest	•	0	10	x	10
Brighton and Hove	•	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	•	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	•	0	10	0	10
Hampshire	•	x	70	0	70
Isle of Wight	•	0	10	0	10
Kent	•	0	20	0	20
Medway	•	0	50	0	50
Milton Keynes	•	x	x	0	x
Oxfordshire	•	0	20	0	20
Portsmouth	•	0	0	0	0
Reading	•	x	10	x	20
Slough	•	0	10	x	10
Southampton	•	0	0	0	0
Surrey	x	10	20	0	30
West Berkshire	•	0	x	x	10
West Sussex	•	x	10	0	10
Windsor and Maidenhead	•	0	x	0	x
Wokingham	•	0	x	0	x
South West	•	10	160	x	170
Bath and North East Somerset	•	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	•	x	x	0	10
Bristol, City of	•	0	10	x	10
Cornwall	•	x	10	0	10
Devon	•	0	30	0	30
Dorset	•	x	10	0	10
Gloucestershire	•	x	20	0	20
Isles of Scilly	•	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	•	x	10	0	10
Plymouth	•	0	x	0	x
Poole	•	0	0	0	0
Somerset	•	x	10	x	20

Pupil referral units: number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs by age[1, 2] as at January 2010 in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs aged:[2]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
South Gloucestershire	0	0	20	0	20
Swindon	0	x	50	0	50
Torbay	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	10	0	10

x = fewer than 5 pupils.

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils. Includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.

[2] Age as at 31 August 2009.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Pupil Referral Unit Census

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit

19. **Jane Ellison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the level of housing benefit payments on people's willingness to seek employment. [8944]

Maria Miller: Welfare dependency has grown over the last 10 years: 4.9 million people are now claiming out of work benefits—the highest level since 1998-99.

Work should pay; we must do more to improve incentives to start, and stay in, work. Housing benefit payments of up to £2,000 a week give people little chance of ever escaping benefit dependency and making work worth while.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of households in receipt of local housing allowance of more than *(a)* £400 for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* £340 for a three bedroom property, *(c)* £290 for a two bedroom property and *(d)* £200 for a one bedroom property in Lewisham East constituency in 2010-11. [6588]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of households in receipt of weekly local housing allowance of more than *(a)* £400 for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* £340 for a three bedroom property, *(c)* £290 for a two bedroom property and *(d)* £200 for a one bedroom property in (i) Ashfield, (ii) Argyll and Bute and (iii) Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency. [6641]

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of people resident in Cynon Valley constituency in receipt of weekly local housing allowance of over *(a)* £400 for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* £340 for a three bedroom property, *(c)* £290 for a two bedroom property and *(d)* £200 for a one bedroom property in 2010-11. [6782]

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of people in Birmingham, Erdington constituency in receipt of weekly local housing allowance of over *(a)* £400 for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* £340 for a three bedroom property, *(c)* £290 for a two bedroom property and *(d)* £200 for a one bedroom property in 2010-11. [6941]

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Clwyd South constituency in receipt of weekly local housing allowance of over *(a)* £400 for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* £340 for a three bedroom property, *(c)* £290 for a two bedroom property and *(d)* £200 for a one bedroom property. [7001]

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in East Lothian constituency in receipt of local housing allowance of *(a)* over £400 per week for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* over £340 per week for a three bedroom property, *(c)* over £290 per week for a two bedroom property and *(d)* over £200 per week for a one bedroom property in 2010-11. [7182]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in Bristol East constituency in receipt of weekly local housing allowance payments of *(a)* over £400 for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* over £340 for a three bedroom property, *(c)* over £290 for a two bedroom property and *(d)* over £200 for a one bedroom property in 2010-11. [7240]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of social sector tenants in East Lothian constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what estimate he has made of the average reduction in weekly payments of that allowance; and what estimate he has made of the effect of those reductions on the level of revenue from housing accruing to East Lothian council. [7185]

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in the City of Durham constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average weekly reduction in benefit for such people; what estimate has been made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [8471]

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Newport East constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate has been made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [8478]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Members to the written answer I gave on 8 July 2010, *Official Report,* columns 435-37 to the hon. Member for West Lancashire (Rosie Cooper).

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of private sector tenants in East Lothian constituency whose local housing allowance payments will be reduced in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what estimate he has made of the average reduction in weekly payments of that allowance to such tenants. [7189]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of private sector tenants whose local housing allowance payments will fall in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what estimate he has made of the average reduction in such weekly payments. [7233]

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of private sector tenants in Edinburgh East constituency whose local housing allowance payments will fall in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what estimate he has made of the average reduction in weekly payments of that allowance in each such year. [8193]

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in City of Durham constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average amount of reduction for such a tenant in each of those years. [8463]

Steve Webb: We will publish an impact assessment for the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates on 23 July 2010.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider phasing in the proposed reductions to housing benefit over a three-year period in areas likely to be significantly affected. [9124]

Steve Webb: The Department is taking a phased approach to reductions in the housing benefit rates. Some of the measures aimed at reducing local housing allowance rates will come into force in April 2011, but the measure to set rates at the 30th percentile will not come into force until October 2011. Existing customers will not be affected by these changes until their claim is reviewed by the local authority, usually on the anniversary of the date they originally made their claim.

There will be staged increases in the rates of non-dependant deductions in the income-related benefits from April 2011. In order to minimise the impacts on customers and their non-dependants, we will introduce these changes in three phases.

We intend to introduce further measures, which require primary legislation, from April 2013. These are: set local housing allowance rates according to the consumer price index; restrict housing benefit for working age tenants in the social rented sector, where people live in a property that is too large for their needs; and reduce housing benefit entitlement by 10% for customers who are claiming jobseeker's allowance after one year.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the proposed reductions in housing benefit will apply to those already in receipt of the benefit. [9126]

Steve Webb: The Government intend to apply those measures that will reduce local housing allowance rates to existing customers. However, these customers will not be affected until their claims are reviewed by the local authority, which usually takes place on the anniversary of the date they originally made their claim.

The Department for Work and Pensions is considering the detailed policy design for housing benefit measures that require primary legislation: set local housing allowance rates according to the consumer price index; restrict housing benefit for working age tenants in the social rented sector, where people live in a property that is too large for their needs; and reduce housing benefit entitlement by 10% for customers who are claiming jobseeker's allowance after one year. It is too early to say how these changes will be applied to customers who are in receipt of housing benefit when they come into force.

Youth Unemployment

20. **Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the level of youth unemployment. [8945]

22. **Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the level of youth unemployment. [8947]

23. **Mrs. Grant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the level of youth unemployment. [8948]

Chris Grayling: The Government are committed to tackling youth unemployment. Young people are able to access a comprehensive range of opportunities, support and advice that will help them find employment.

Next year we will introduce our Work Programme. This will offer integrated employment support to young people, regardless of the benefit that they claim.

Pension Calculations

21. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the use of the consumer price index to calculate final salary pensions. [8946]

Steve Webb: The Government have received representations from a number of organisations and individuals.

Future Jobs Fund

24. **Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of young people who have found permanent employment through the future jobs fund; and if he will make a statement. [8949]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available. We are currently planning an evaluation strategy for future jobs fund. This is likely to look at the destinations of people who have participated in the Future Jobs Fund.

Work Capability Assessment

25. **Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on people with long-term mental illness of the implementation of the recommendations of the internal review of the work capability assessment. [8950]

Maria Miller: Implementing the recommendations of the internal review will ensure that the work capability assessment is fairer, more consistent and transparent with greater provision for claimants with severe disability due to mental health conditions.

There will also be additional provision for claimants who are awaiting or in between courses of chemotherapy, and for those with certain communication problems. The recommendations will also take greater account of how someone has adapted to their health condition or disability, and will simplify the wording of the assessment.

Children: Maintenance

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for child maintenance were made under the current scheme which led to an outstanding assessment or continuing claim under the old scheme in respect of the same absentee parent being moved to be dealt with under the current scheme in each year since the inception of the current scheme. [9358]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Susan Park:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. As the Child Maintenance Commissioner is currently on annual leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for child maintenance were made under the current scheme which led to an outstanding assessment or continuing claim under the old scheme in respect of the same absentee parent being moved to be dealt with under the current scheme in each year since the inception of the current scheme. [9358]

A new scheme application can have a financial impact on an existing old scheme case when either the non-resident parent or the parent with care on the new application is also the non-resident parent or parent with care on the existing case. In this situation, the old scheme cases in question will also be converted to the new scheme. This is called reactive conversion. In some cases, the partners of non-resident parents or the partners of parents with care may also trigger a reactive conversion.

The table below shows the number of cases moved to the current scheme in each year since its inception.

	Converted cases
March:	
2004	11,500
2005	13,100
2006	16,100
2007	21,200
2008	14,900
2009	8,200
2010	13,600

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9049]

Chris Grayling: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. The Department for Work and Pensions does not hold a record of the number of its staff who attended. Employees were expected to attend for no more than one working day.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. The Department has paid some travel and subsistence costs for employees. These costs are not held centrally and cannot be disaggregated at reasonable cost; staff will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by the Department.

Departmental Leave

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department of privilege days awarded to staff in his Department. [9540]

Chris Grayling: No official estimate has been made of the cost to the Department of privilege days.

The actual cost is dependant on when the privilege days falls, how many people take leave on that day, and what work is re-prioritised or re-scheduled as a result of the absence.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £535 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6831]

Chris Grayling: The Chancellor and Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced in-year savings of £6.243 billion on 24 May 2010. The Department for Work and Pensions' contribution to this was £535 million. The cost saving will be made from budgets for the young persons guarantee, the six month offer, IT and other project investment, cost reductions from major suppliers, staff savings by implementing a recruitment freeze and not renewing the contracts of some fixed term-appointments, reductions in discretionary spending (which includes business travel and office expenses) and reducing the cost of our buildings. These savings can be achieved without affecting service delivery to customers, including the guarantee of an offer of a job, training or work experience for young people.

Disability Living Allowance

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* rate of uptake and *(b)* monetary value of unclaimed benefits relating to disability living allowance in respect of disabled (i) children and (ii) adults in each of the last 10 years. [8645]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the rate of take-up and amount of unclaimed disability living allowance are not available.

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his plans to introduce a medical assessment for disability living allowance from 2013 will include child claimants. [8649]

Maria Miller: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy) on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 212W.

The Chancellor announced in his emergency Budget that the Government will reform disability living allowance to ensure support is targeted on those with the highest needs and will consider carefully how reforms will impact on children.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he intends to reduce expenditure on disability living allowance award in each year to 2015; what steps he plans to take to achieve such reductions; and if he will make a statement. [9226]

Maria Miller: The Budget announced that we will introduce a new objective assessment for disability living allowance from 2013-14 and will begin to uprate the benefit by the consumer prices index (CPI) from 2011-12. The estimated savings from forecast expenditure resulting from these changes are in the following table.

Impact of Budget measures for disability living allowance

£ million, nominal

	New assessment	*Uprating by CPI*
2011-12	—	10
2012-13	—	-85
2013-14	-350	-235
2014-15	-1,040	-415

Notes:
1. Figures are for Great Britain only.
2. The estimates cover the impact of: (a) not reducing uprating in April 2011 by the 1.5% that was paid from April 2010, which had been assumed in previous plans to be clawed back; and (b) changing the price index for uprating from the retail prices index or the Rossi index to the consumer prices index with effect from the April 2011 uprating.
3. Estimates have been revised by DWP forecasting division during the finalisation of benefit level forecasts and are consistent with economic assumptions from Budget 22 June 2010.
4. Estimates of savings are only available up to 2014-15 at present.

Source:
DWP calculations

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each category of disability receive disability living allowance awards at the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower rate. [9314]

Maria Miller: The information on the numbers of people in each disabling category receiving disability living allowance is contained in the following tables.

	Arthritis	*Muscle/joint/bone disease*	*Blindness/visual disease*	*Stroke related*	*Learning difficulty*
All	582,100	221,700	69,300	111,200	347,900
Higher Care and Higher Mobility	102,700	36,200	2,200	33,300	35,400
Higher Care and Lower Mobility	1,300	1,000	2,500	1,500	44,500
Higher Care Only	3,400	1,900	200	700	6,700
Middle Care and Higher Mobility	129,800	42,100	3,100	30,700	10,200
Middle Care and Lower Mobility	3,500	3,500	22,900	4,900	136,300
Middle Care Only	6,900	4,900	1,200	1,500	22,300
Lower Care and Higher Mobility	155,100	42,600	1,300	15,900	1,000
Lower Care and Lower Mobility	4,500	3,700	27,600	4,700	40,100
Lower Care Only	56,900	41,400	1,300	8,300	10,900
Higher Mobility Only	116,900	43,700	500	8,500	11,200

	Arthritis	*Muscle/joint/bone disease*	*Blindness/visual disease*	*Stroke related*	*Learning difficulty*
Lower Mobility Only	1,200	800	6,400	900	29,300

	Mental health causes	*Epilepsy*	*Deafness*	*Malignant disease*	*Chest disease*
All	516,400	72,400	40,400	80,500	92,600
Higher Care and Higher Mobility	29,000	5,800	600	46,000	20,900
Higher Care and Lower Mobility	87,800	8,900	400	900	600
Higher Care Only	3,900	1,200	300	2,400	2,600
Middle Care and Higher Mobility	13,000	4,400	1,200	9,200	22,500
Middle Care and Lower Mobility	183,400	39,800	15,400	1,300	700
Middle Care Only	20,100	2,800	9,600	1,300	1,000
Lower Care and Higher Mobility	5,200	600	500	6,300	14,500
Lower Care and Lower Mobility	84,600	3,300	5,100	1,300	400
Lower Care Only	30,600	1,600	4,200	6,600	1,800
Higher Mobility Only	8,800	1,600	500	4,900	27,400
Lower Mobility Only	50,000	2,500	2,600	200	200

	Back ailments	*Heart disease*	*Parkinson's disease*	*Diabetes Mellitus*	*Renal disorders*
All	244,600	142,100	18,400	59,800	14,900
Higher Care and Higher Mobility	36,800	24,000	8,500	8,100	3,200
Higher Care and Lower Mobility	300	800	200	2,900	300
Higher Care Only	500	1,800	400	2,800	1,000
Middle Care and Higher Mobility	46,400	28,800	4,200	9,100	3,600
Middle Care and Lower Mobility	1,900	1,900	200	6,200	500
Middle Care Only	2,600	1,500	400	14,500	1,200
Lower Care and Higher Mobility	75,100	24,600	1,900	5,400	1,800
Lower Care and Lower Mobility	2,700	1,300	200	2,100	200
Lower Care Only	26,100	4,500	1,200	3,600	1,200
Higher Mobility Only	51,300	52,200	1,000	4,600	1,800
Lower Mobility Only	900	700	—	500	100

	AIDS	*Skin disease*	*Frailty*	*Multiple Sclerosis*	*Other*
All	8,600	16,500	3,200	68,000	408,600
Higher Care and Higher Mobility	4,600	1,000	1,600	28,600	81,300
Higher Care and Lower Mobility	200	200	—	—	17,000
Higher Care Only	200	2,600	100	100	9,600
Middle Care and Higher Mobility	1,100	1,100	700	20,400	73,100
Middle Care and Lower Mobility	200	200	200	400	39,400
Middle Care Only	200	2,600	100	100	17,600
Lower Care and Higher Mobility	800	1,400	100	8,900	54,000
Lower Care and Lower Mobility	300	100	—	700	16,600
Lower Care Only	500	5,700	—	1,700	38,700
Higher Mobility Only	500	1,400	200	6,600	55,600
Lower Mobility Only	—	100	—	400	5,800

Notes:

1. DLA figures are from 5% sample data. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done here.
3. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of DLA , and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
5. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
6. Numbers of 500 or less are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation.
7. These figures should be used as a guide to the current situation only.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received from representatives of disability groups on the proposal in the June 2010 Budget *(a)* to introduce medical assessments for disability living allowance and *(b)* to amend other aspects of the allowance. [9340]

Maria Miller: Ministers have received a number of representations (in writing and in person) from disability groups on the proposals to introduce a new objective assessment for disability living allowance from 2013-14 and to uprate the benefit in line with the consumer prices index from 2011-12 onwards.

As we develop our proposals, we will continue to engage constructively with disabled people and a broad range of representative organisations to ensure support is effectively targeted on those with greatest need and distributed on a consistent basis, while continuing to tackle the inequalities that can arise from severe disability.

Disability Living Allowance: Carers

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of reductions in expenditure in *(a)* carer's allowance and *(b)* carer premium in relation to all benefits as a result of changing the disability living allowance system in the first four years of the operation of the new rules; [9302]

(2) whether he has made an evaluation of the effects of changes to the disability living allowance system on the amount of benefits paid to carers. [9303]

Maria Miller: The Emergency Budget made the commitment to reform disability living allowance to ensure it supports those people who are most in need and remains financially sustainable. We will introduce a more objective assessment process and, as part of these reforms, carefully consider how this impacts upon carer's allowance, the carer premium and other benefits.

As we develop our proposals, we will engage with disabled people and carers' organisations to ensure support is distributed on a consistent basis, while continuing to tackle the inequalities that can arise from severe disability.

Disability Living Allowance: Chester

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of city of Chester constituency have been claiming disability living allowance for *(a)* less than one year, *(b)* between one and five years and *(c)* over five years. [9263]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

Recipients of disability living allowance by duration, in the parliamentary constituency of city of Chester—November 2009

	Number
All recipients	4,850
Less than one year	300
One year to five years	1,080
Over five years	3,480

Recipients of disability living allowance by duration, in the parliamentary constituency of city of Chester—November 2009

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Disability Living Allowance: Fraud

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to identify potentially fraudulent claims for disability living allowance. [9354]

Chris Grayling: The Department carries out various checks on a selection of disability living allowance live cases to ensure they are correct. Where appropriate, additional medical evidence may also be sought from a relevant health care professional. This may include a medical examination. We also match data both within and outside Government to identify inconsistencies in information.

As announced in the Emergency Budget on 22 June, the Government plan to reform DLA. This will include introducing a transparent, objective assessment to ensure it is received by those who it was originally designed to support.

Employment Support Allowance

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the weekly deduction of allowance is in respect of claimants of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance who have exceeded their allowable amount of assets; and for what reasons the deduction was set at that level in each case. [9539]

Chris Grayling: The weekly deduction for both income-based jobseeker's allowance and income-related employment and support allowance is £1 for each £250 or part of £250 over the lower capital threshold of £6,000 (or £10,000 for people living in a care home).

The deduction was set at this level in order to provide a simple method of calculating the weekly contribution which people with capital are expected to make from their resources to help meet their normal living expenses. The deduction is not intended to represent any rate of return that could be obtained from investing in capital.

There is no entitlement to income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance if capital exceeds £16,000.

The contributory element of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance is not affected by capital assets.

Employment Support Allowance: Medical Examinations

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will commission an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of medical assessments for employment support allowance before introducing a medical assessment for disability living allowance. [9228]

Chris Grayling: We have a statutory commitment to arrange an independent review of the main elements of the work capability assessment every year for the first five years of operation. The review will be conducted by Professor Malcolm Harrington, acting as lead reviewer. Professor Harrington is a highly respected occupational physician and will be supported by a scrutiny group, who will review progress at intervals and peer review the final report. It is anticipated that a call for evidence will be made later this month.

As set out in last month's Budget Statement, a new objective assessment will not be introduced for disability living allowance until 2013-2014. This will draw on experience of the introduction of the work capability assessment as we develop the details of the new assessment for disability living allowance.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many medical assessments for employment and support allowance have been *(a)* completed and *(b)* completed and later amended in the latest period for which figures are available. [9359]

Chris Grayling: The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the work capability assessment—the statistics were last updated in April 2010 and published in the report "Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment: Official Statistics: April 2010", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The information is also available on the internet at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in the London borough of *(a)* Camden and *(b)* Brent and in receipt of housing benefit are (i) pensioners and (i) of working age and (A) in employment and (B) not in employment. [6488]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the table. Information on whether a claimant of housing benefit is in employment or not in employment is not available.

The number of housing benefit (HB) claimants by age group—March 2010

	London borough of Brent	London borough of Camden
All HB claimants	33,570	28,300
Working age HB claimants	26,040	19,810
Elderly HB claimants	7,520	8,490
Unknown age HB claimants	20	[1]—

[1] Nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Data are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. March 2010 represents the latest data held.
4. Working age is defined as claimants in receipt of the following passported benefits, as recorded on the LA computer system: income support, jobseeker's allowance (income-based) or employment support allowance (income-based). If the claim is not passported then a claimant is counted as working age if they are aged under 60.
5. Elderly is defined as claimants in receipt of the following passported benefit, as recorded on the LA computer system: pension credit (guarantee credit). If the claim is not passported then a claimant is counted as elderly if they are aged 60 or over.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE).

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families resident in London are in receipt of *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* housing benefit of over £250 per week for a one bedroom property, *(c)* housing benefit of over £290 per week for a two bedroom property, *(d)* housing benefit of over £340 per week for a three bedroom property and *(e)* housing benefit of over £400 per week for a property with four or more bedrooms. [6723]

Steve Webb: At March 2010 our records show that there were 792,890 households in London receiving housing benefit. Of these, 548,660 were in the social rented sector and 242,850 were in the private rented sector.

Information on bedroom entitlement is only available for those housing benefit claims assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements. Of those in the private rented sector, 166,780 households in London received housing benefit under the local housing allowance arrangements, of which there were:

3,320 households with a one-bedroom entitlement receiving over £250 per week;

6,950 households with a two-bedroom entitlement receiving over £290 per week;

2,710 households with a three-bedroom entitlement receiving over £340 per week; and

1,900 households with a four-bedroom entitlement receiving over £400 per week.

Notes:

1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.
2. The single housing benefit extract does not have bedroom entitlement recorded in 4% of the local housing allowance cases in the London Government office region so there may be some underestimation in the numbers reported.
3. Components may not sum to total due to independent rounding and exclusion of unknown and other small categories.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his most recent estimate is of the average *(a)* private sector rent level and *(b)* housing benefit paid to claimants in private sector accommodation in the London Borough of Islington for (i) four bedroom, (ii) two bedroom and (iii) one bedroom accommodation; [9767]

(2) what the average level of *(a)* private sector rent and *(b)* housing benefit paid to claimants in private sector accommodation was for (i) four bedroom, (ii) two bedroom and (iii) one bedroom accommodation in London in the last 12 months. [9768]

Steve Webb: The information requested on average private rented sector rents is not available.

At March 2010, in the London borough of Islington, the average housing benefit paid for customers assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements was:

£168 per week for those with a one-bedroom entitlement;

£291 per week for those with a two-bedroom entitlement; and

£482 per week for those with a four-bedroom entitlement.

At March 2010, in London, the average housing benefit paid for customers assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements was:

£156 per week for those with a one-bedroom entitlement;

£204 per week for those with a two-bedroom entitlement; and

£326 per week for those with a four-bedroom entitlement.

Note:

Figures rounded to the nearest £.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract

Housing Benefit: Homelessness

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of *(a)* homeless people and *(b)* those sleeping rough of the proposed changes to housing benefit. [9127]

Steve Webb: We are working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations to assess the impacts of the proposed changes to housing benefit, including looking at ways to minimise any risk of adverse impacts on local authorities' homelessness prevention strategies.

Housing Benefit: Local Government Finance

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he intends to provide additional funding to those local authorities where there is a difference between prevailing rent levels and the level of housing benefit. [9125]

Steve Webb: The Government will provide additional funding for discretionary housing payments. This will be an additional £10 million in 2011-12 and £40 million a year thereafter. The Department will consider how best to distribute this funding in conjunction with local authorities; however, one of the criteria we will consider is the projected levels of shortfalls between benefit and rents at local levels.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents in Warrington North constituency who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months by 2013. [9122]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Maternity Payments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers for their second or subsequent child in each Jobcentre Plus Social Fund Budget area in the South West in 2009-10. [8656]

Steve Webb: There is only one Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area in the south-west Government office region, namely South West Central. The exact number of Sure Start maternity grants awarded for a second or subsequent maternity in this budget area in 2009-10 is not available, but is estimated to be 9,800 (rounded to the nearest 100).

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to the letter dated 11 June 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr B. E. Gareth, transferred to his Department from the Department of Health. [9351]

Steve Webb: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions replied to the right hon. Member on 18 June 2010.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received Support for Mortgage Interest in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in the last 12 months; and how many of those in each such area were in receipt of (i) income support, (ii) jobseeker's allowance and (iii) pension credits. [9641]

Chris Grayling: Information is not available in the format requested; the available information has been placed in the Library.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in receipt of *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* pension credits in each (i) local authority and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district who will no longer have their full mortgage interest payment covered by their Support for Mortgage Interest benefit payments under the proposals in the June 2010 Budget. [9745]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available because the Department does not collect management information on the actual interest rates that apply to Support for Mortgage Interest customers' loans.

Oil Rigs: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions there have been between the Health and Safety Executive and the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group on safety on Transocean's oil rigs in UK waters; and if he will make a statement. [9655]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is a member of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG) and two of its specialist review groups: Technical (covering Well Engineering, Operations and Control) and European Issues. Transocean are represented on the main group and the technical group. HSE inspectors have attended both meetings of OSPRAG and all three meetings of its Technical Review Group. Transocean also attended these meetings and participated in the discussions.

OSPRAG's safety remit is to monitor and review information from the Deep Water Horizon incident to facilitate the implementation of pertinent recommendations on the UK continental shelf. HSE has been working alongside other members, including Transocean, to review emerging findings and benchmark relevant aspects of well design, examination and control.

Pensioners: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Warrington North constituency receive *(a)* state pension, *(b)* pension credit and *(c)* winter fuel allowance. [9068]

Steve Webb: In winter 2008-09, the latest year for which information is available, 18,820 people received a winter fuel payment in Warrington North constituency.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent data.

The state pension and pension credit information is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Warrington North	17,020	5,290	4,300

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.

3. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.

4. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data as at November 2009.

Pensions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on his Department's proposals to change the state pension retirement age. [8761]

Steve Webb: As of 15 July 2010, over 160 responses have been received from individuals in response to the call for evidence. Many of these cover the three questions we asked in the call for evidence: changes in life expectancy and the economic context, the notice period and ensuring no group is disproportionately affected.

No responses have been received from organisations to date, but we are aware that a number are being prepared.

All the issues raised will be considered once the call for evidence period ends on 6 August.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against benefits decisions have been refused because they were not received within the one month deadline in the last 12 months. [8439]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

Between April 2009 and March 2010 the First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support) refused 672 of the 4,052 appeals referred from the Department for Work and Pensions as received outside the one month deadline to appeal. This is the most recent period for which figures are available.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against benefits decisions have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in the last 12 months. [8440]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

Between April 2009 and March 2010 the First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support) granted 74,622 and refused 116,049 appeals against benefit decisions made on behalf of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. This is the most recent period for which figures are available.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against benefits decisions were determined without a hearing in the last 12 months. [8441]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

Between April 2009 and March 2010 the First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support) determined 55,019 appeals on papers without an oral hearing. This is the most recent period for which figures are available.

In addition, the tribunal disposed of 36,529 appeals which were withdrawn prior to hearing, 6,002 appeals that were superseded (that is, where the Department for Work and Pensions gave a new decision) and 21,760 that were struck out (that is, where the claimant failed to comply with a judge's directions).

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many decisions on benefits appeals in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Wales are outstanding. [8442]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The number of outstanding appeals with the First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support) against benefit decisions made on behalf of the Secretary of State as of 14 June 2010 are as follows:

	Number
England	109,516
Scotland	19,654
Wales	20,734

This is the most recent period for which figures are available. These do not include appeals that have been lodged with the Department for Work and Pensions but have not yet been referred to the First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support).

The system for Social Security benefits in Northern Ireland is devolved and is the responsibility of the Civic Department for Social Development. Appeals are considered by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service.

State Retirement Pensions: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who receive a state pension by virtue of marriage are not UK citizens, have not made any national insurance contributions and have never lived in the UK; and how much has been paid to such recipients in the last 12 months. [7206]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available because a person's citizenship does not determine whether a UK state pension is payable and so this information is not recorded.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8286]

Mr Duncan: No.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8323]

Mr Duncan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W, on Departmental Official Cars.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8227]

Mr Duncan: Details of overseas travel by Ministers during May and June will be published in August on the Cabinet Office website. The Department for International Development (DFID) is unable to provide details of ministerial travel in the UK without incurring disproportionate cost. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Developing Countries

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that the UN Millennium Development Goals are met. [8474]

Mr O'Brien: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is at the heart of the Government's development policy. We are reviewing all our programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money and accelerate progress towards the MDGs.

At the United Nations Millennium Development Goals summit in September, we will press for international agreement on an action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The United Kingdom sees the summit as a key opportunity for both developed and developing countries to make results-based commitments, including on the most off-track MDGs such as maternal and child health. We are clear that any such commitments must be based on quantifiable outcomes in terms of changes on the ground.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's Working Together for Better Health strategy in achieving its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [8094]

Mr O'Brien: We are currently reviewing our aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. DFID's health portfolio will be included in the reviews.

India and China: Overseas Aid

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding he plans to allocate to projects in *(a)* India and *(b)* China in 2010-11. [8262]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Under the previous Government, the Department for International Development (DFID) allocated £280 million for India in 2010-11. I have commissioned a review of the bilateral aid programme. This will determine the size of the future India programme.

I announced on 3 June that the China programme will close as soon as is practical. DFID will spend £20 million completing programmes to which we are contractually committed in 2010-11.

Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he next plans to visit Yemen. [9169]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to supporting the Government of Yemen address its development challenges.

The security situation in Yemen means we cannot discuss ministerial travel plans.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will ensure that the UK's development assistance to Yemen is funded at a level commensurate with that country's importance to UK national security. [8460]

Mr Duncan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 421W, on Yemen: Overseas Aid.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many staff are assigned to his private office; and what the civil service pay band of each is. [576]

Chris Bryant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many full-time equivalent civil servants are working in his office. [1798]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The breakdown of staff employed in my private office as at 14 July, at each grade, showing full-time equivalents, is as follows:

Cabinet Office grade	*Civil service grade*	*Pay range*	*Full-time equivalents*
Senior civil servant	Senior civil servant	£82,900-£162,500	1
Band A	Grade 6/7	£44,300-£59,000	3
Band B2	SEO/HEO	£29,819-£38,103	3
Band C	AO/AA	£19,594-£23,831	2

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many prosecutions there have been for an offence of failure to complete and return an annual electoral registration form in each region in each of the last 10 years. [9191]

Mr Harper: This information is not collected centrally. Electoral registration officers (EROs) have a statutory duty to maintain a complete and accurate electoral register. It is for individual EROs to decide what action to take in relation to non-completion of an individual annual canvass form.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make an assessment of the implications of the introduction of individual voter registration in Northern Ireland for the adoption of individual voter registration in the rest of the UK; and if he will make a statement. [9197]

Mr Harper: The Government are currently considering the options for implementation of individual electoral registration, including taking into account the experience in Northern Ireland, and will announce their approach to this in due course.

Electoral Systems: Referendums

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he received advice *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* against holding the alternative vote referendum on the same day as elections for the devolved legislatures and local authority elections. [7823]

Mr Harper: The Deputy Prime Minister set out the Government's reasoning in a statement to the House of Commons on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 24:

> "first... that all parties fought the general election on an absolute pledge to move fast to fix our political system, so we must get on and do that without delay; secondly, it is important to avoid asking people to keep returning to the ballot box; and finally, in these straitened times we must keep costs as low as possible."

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the devolved Administration, *(b)* local government, *(c)* trades unions, *(d)* industry, *(e)* voluntary organisations and *(f)* the public in relation to the proposed referendum on electoral reform. [8443]

Mr Harper: It was right that the Government announced their proposals for the alternative vote referendum to Parliament first. Over the coming months we will be working closely with the Electoral Commission, devolved Administrations and others to make sure that the devolved elections, the local elections and the referendum are run effectively.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he sought advice from the Electoral Commission on the proposed date of the referendum on electoral reform. [8445]

Mr Harper: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced the Government's proposals for a referendum on the alternative vote on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-25. He and I have had discussions with the Electoral Commission on a number of matters.

Freedom (Great Repeal) Bill

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will include repeal of the Act of Settlement in his proposals for a Freedom (Great Repeal) Bill. [9632]

Mr Harper: There are no current plans to repeal the Act of Settlement.

CABINET OFFICE

Business

Nick de Bois: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the five-year survival rate of small businesses was in *(a)* Enfield North constituency, *(b)* London and *(c)* the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [8109]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the five-year survival rate of small businesses was in (a) Enfield North constituency, (b) London and (c) the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [8109]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on small enterprise five year survival in Enfield North parliamentary constituency, London and the United Kingdom.

The count of births in 2003 and the count and percentage of five year survival for enterprises with less than 50 employment

	2003	Five year	
Geography	*Births*	*Survival*	*Percentage*
United Kingdom	266,525	124,160	46.6
London	48,740	19,205	39.4
Enfield North	405	170	42.3

A small business is defined as an enterprise with less than 50 employment.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the five year survival rate of small businesses was in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [9786]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the five year survival rate of small businesses was in (a) Mid Bedfordshire and (b) the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [9786]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on small enterprise five year survival in Mid Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency and the United Kingdom.

The count of births in 2003 and the count and percentage of five year survival for enterprises with less than 50 employment

	2003	Five year	
Geography	*Births*	*Survival*	*Percentage*
United Kingdom	266,525	124,160	46.6
Mid Bedfordshire LA	740	390	52.7
Mid Bedfordshire	590	310	52.9

A small business is defined as an enterprise with less than 50 employment.

Business: Enfield

Nick de Bois: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses in Enfield North constituency generated a turnover of *(a)* between £70,000 and £100,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 in the latest period for which figures are available. [8108]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses in Enfield North constituency generated a turnover of (a) between £70,000 and £100,000 and (b) over £100,000 in the latest period for which figures are available. [8108]

Annual statistics on business counts are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Data are for enterprises in the constituency of Enfield North with less than 50 employment and for the year 2009.

Count of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises with less than 50 employment for the constituency of Enfield North in 2009

Turnover size	*Number*
£70,000-£99,000	435
£100,000+	1,610

Nick de Bois: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses *(a)* started up and *(b)* ceased in Enfield North constituency in each of the last five years. [8110]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses (a) started up and (b) ceased in Enfield North constituency in each of the last five years. [8110]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on enterprise births and deaths for Enfield North parliamentary constituency, the past five years.

Count of enterprise births and deaths from 2004 to 2008 in parliamentary constituency of Enfield North

	Births	*Deaths*
2004	435	[1]—
2005	405	325
2006	410	325
2007	360	330
2008	485	320

[1] Not available.

Cabinet Committees: Public Expenditure

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the annual operating costs of the proposed Star Chamber process for departmental expenditure reductions. [9451]

Mr Letwin: 'The Spending Review Framework' published on 8 June 2010 set out the Government's plans for the spending review. It included the announcement of a Cabinet Committee of senior Cabinet Ministers, the Public Expenditure Committee (PEX) or so called 'Star Chamber', to advise the Cabinet on high-level decisions that will need to be taken in the spending review.

It is not possible to isolate costs associated with operating individual Cabinet Committees; however, as a Committee of Cabinet, costs incurred by operating PEX will be met from the Cabinet Secretariat's existing resources. Ministers attending the Committee would be supported by existing resources within their Departments.

A copy of 'The Spending Review Framework' has been placed in the Library of the House.

Charities

Ian Lucas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many registered charities are based in *(a)* Wrexham, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* the UK. [7826]

Mr Hurd: Charity law is a devolved issue with each independent regulator having separate responsibility for the maintenance of a register of charities based in its territory. In Scotland this is kept by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and in Northern Ireland it is kept by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI). The information requested for charities in Wales falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. I have asked the Commission to reply to these aspects of the question.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 8 July 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question (7826) on how many registered charities are based in (a) Wrexham, (b) Wales and (c) the UK.

In England and Wales, registered charities are asked to nominate a named correspondent whose contact details are available via the online Register of Charities on our website at:

www.charitycommission.gov.uk

Many charities operate in small local areas and for them the contact address we hold is likely to correspond to the charity's area of operation. However many larger charities operate nationally or internationally and the address we hold may be for their head office only.

With this caveat, the Register of Charities as at 8 July 2010 shows that:

(a) there are 177 registered charities based in the Parliamentary constituency of Wrexham;

(b) there are 8,133 registered charities based in Wales; and

(c) there are 162,243 registered charities based in England and Wales.

Our website includes a facility to find charities based on the Parliamentary constituency or local authority area of the named contact, and this can be accessed at:

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/ShowCharity/registerofcharities/mapping/Search.aspx

I hope this is helpful.

Deaths: Allergies

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths attributable to *(a)* anaphylaxis and *(b)* other allergic reactions there were in each of the last five years. [9017]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributable to (a) anaphylaxis and (b) other allergic reactions there were in each of the last five years. (9017)

The attached table provides the number of deaths from (a) anaphylactic shock and (b) other allergic reactions in England and Wales, from 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

Table 1. Number of deaths where anaphylactic shock was the cause of death,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2005-09[3, 4]

	Deaths (persons)
2005	15
2006	25
2007	24
2008	26
2009	32

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes T78.0 (Anaphylactic shock due to adverse food reaction), T78.2 (Anaphylactic shock, unspecified), T88.6 (Anaphylactic shock due to adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered) and T80.5 (Anaphylactic shock due to serum), where these codes were the secondary cause of death.

[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year

[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2009 are provisional.

Table 2. Number of deaths caused by other allergic reactions,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2005-09[3, 4]

	Deaths (persons)
2005	25
2006	39
2007	28
2008	28
2009	21

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J30 (Vasomotor and allergic rhinitis), K52.2 (Allergic and dietetic gastroenteritis and colitis), L20 (Atopic dermatitis), L23 (Allergic contact dermatitis), J45.0 (Predominantly allergic asthma) and J45.8 (Mixed asthma), where these codes were the underlying cause of death. Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes T78.1 (Other adverse food reactions, not elsewhere classified), T78.3 (Angioneurotic oedema), T78.4 (Allergy, unspecified) and T88.7 (Unspecified adverse effect of drug or medicament) where these codes were the secondary cause of death.

[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year

[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2009 are provisional.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8322]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8228]

Mr Letwin: As set out in the Ministerial Code Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Electronic Government

Mr Weir: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of Civil Service posts of his Department's plans to reduce the size of websites of individual Government Departments; and what assessment he has made of the effect on consumers of the consolidation of information from those Departments on the DirectGov website. [8386]

Mr Hurd: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 12 July 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question (8386) on government websites.

Individual departments are responsible for their own staffing levels including those working on websites.

The Central Office of Information recently published a report on the cost, usage and quality of government websites, this did not include recommendations for a reduction in the size of them.

No assessment has been made of on the consolidation of information to the DirectGov website as this is again a matter for individual depts.

Lone Parents: Edinburgh

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Edinburgh East constituency. [8187]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Edinburgh East constituency. (8187)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for tone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary and there have been no boundary changes since 2008 in the area requested.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families with at least one child under 16 (thousand)*[1]
Edinburgh East constituency (2008)	3

[1] As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty and are therefore presented rounded to the nearest thousand. Source: APS January to December 2008

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Childbirth

Mrs Grant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many births there were at *(a)* Maidstone hospital and *(b)* Tunbridge Wells hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [9519]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many births occurred at (a) Maidstone Hospital and (b) Tonbridge Wells Hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. (9519)

Figures for live births by hospital have been compiled from birth registration data. The latest year for which data on place of birth are available is 2008. The table below shows the number of live births in 2008 in the hospitals requested, according to this source. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the hospitals themselves.

Live births occurring in selected hospitals in 2008

Communal establishment	*Number*
Maidstone Hospital	2,159
Pembury Hospital, Tunbridge Wells	2,649

NDPBs: Manpower

Mr Weir: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has issued guidance to non-departmental public bodies on the future employment of staff currently employed in policy roles; and if he will make a statement. [8384]

Mr Letwin: No such guidance has been issued by the Cabinet Office to non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

Public Sector: Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to implement the proposals in his Department's paper 'Mutual Benefit: Giving People Power over Public Services'. [8100]

Mr Hurd: The Government are committed to supporting the creation and expansion of mutuals, co-operatives, charities and social enterprises, including by enabling these groups to have much greater involvement in the running of public services.

The Cabinet Office is working closely with Departments to identify areas where mutuals and co-operatives could play a greater role in running services, in particular through public sector workers 'spinning out' to set up new employee-led organisations.

Public Sector: Recruitment

Mr Weir: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has made an assessment of the merits of standardising the employment application forms used by the Home Civil Service and non-departmental public bodies. [8383]

Mr Letwin: We are progressing a range of initiatives to improve the efficiencies of recruitment processes following the publication of the National Audit Office report: 'Recruiting Civil Servants Efficiently' in 2009 a programme of work called Next Generation HR will deliver new technology, through a phased in approach starting July 2010, designed to standardise recruitment processes and application forms and remove cost and time from the recruitment process in Government Departments. This programme will also be made available to agencies and non-departmental public bodies over time.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the deadline is for unsolicited contributions to the Strategic Defence and Security Review from members of the public and organisations. [9939]

Mr Letwin: The Government expect to publish a National Security Strategy and the outcomes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review in the autumn, in coordination with the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). Contributions and ideas from members of the public and organisations are welcome at any time during this process.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 732W, on defence, with which organisations the Government have begun engaging on the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [9950]

Mr Letwin: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 732W. The Government have begun engaging with key partners and representative organisations on the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). These organisations include a range of think tanks; academics; industry groups; trade union and staff associations; and international partners. I would be happy to write to the hon. Member with further details of the organisations involved.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Afghanistan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many official visits Ministers in his Department have made to Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [9960]

Mr Davey: No Ministers have visited Afghanistan in the last 12 months.

Agriculture: Research

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research on genetically-modified plants, food and feed have been funded by *(a)* each research council and *(b)* the Science and Technology Facilities Council since 1997; what the (i) topic, (ii) start date, (iii) cost and (iv) project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8037]

Mr Willetts: The Biotechnology and Biological Research Council (BBSRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) have funded projects in both areas, and details of these will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Some of the data sets do not run for the full period since 1997; this is because data for the years which are not provided can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) funded two grants since 1997 whose research included GM plants. Details of these will also be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Medical Research Council (MRC) and Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) have not funded any projects of the types listed.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research projects on the *(a)* sources and quantities of greenhouse gases, *(b)* water pollution and *(c)* air pollution arising from agricultural activity have been funded by (i) each research council and (ii) the Science and Technology Facilities Council since 1997; what the (A) research topic, (B) start date, (C) cost and (D) project code was of each such project; which the lead institution was in each case; and what such projects have been completed to date. [8040]

Mr Willetts: The Biotechnology and Biological Research Council (BBSRC) has undertaken research into the sources and quantities of greenhouse gases, water pollution and air pollution arising from agricultural activity, but the cost of collating all of the information in the form requested would be disproportionate. The BBSRC has been able to provide those details of research expenditure relating to greenhouse gases, water pollution and air pollution arising from agricultural activity. A copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) provided two grants for research into the sources and quantities of greenhouse gases. For water pollution, NERC has provided funding via its research centre, the British Geological Survey (BGS). Details will be placed in the Libraries of the House. NERC has not provided funding for research into air pollution.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Engineering and Physical Research Council (EPSRC), Medical Research Council (MRC) and Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) have not provided any funding.

Apprentices

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the 50,000 apprenticeship places he has announced will be *(a)* reserved for those under the age of 25 years and *(b)* at level three or above. [9014]

Mr Hayes: Following our announcement to redeploy £150 million from the Train to Gain budget in England, we have asked the National Apprenticeships Service and the Skills Funding Agency to work with training providers to support the expansion of apprenticeships. Funding guidance for providers is now available on the Skills Funding Agency website. There is no specific target or allocation for those under the age of 25 or for those taking an advanced apprenticeship at level 3.

Balance of Trade

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the UK's trade in goods deficit was *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available; and what steps he plans to take to reduce the deficit. [9279]

Mr Prisk: According to the Office for National Statistics, the UK's trade in goods deficit was £12.3 billion in 1997 and £81.9 billion in 2009 on a balance of payments basis.

The Department's priorities include stimulating growth and competitiveness by promoting open and fair global markets and improving UK Trade and Investment's focus on generating high-value inward investment and strengthening the capability of UK exporters. "The Coalition: our programme for government" states that the Government believe that business is the driver of economic growth and innovation; we need to take urgent action to boost enterprise, providing the competitive environment required for enterprise to thrive; we will consider the implementation of the Dyson Review to make the UK the leading hi-tech exporter in Europe; we will support pro-development trade deals; and we will ensure that UKTI and the Export Credits Guarantee Department become champions for British companies that develop and export innovative green technologies around the world.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the UK's trade in goods deficit has been in each year since 1997. [9743]

Mr Prisk: The data requested are shown in the following table.

	UK deficit in trade in goods (£ billion)
1997	12.3
1998	21.8
1999	29.1
2000	33.0
2001	41.2
2002	47.7
2003	48.6
2004	60.9
2005	68.6
2006	76.3
2007	89.8
2008	93.1
2009	81.8

Source:
Office for National Statistics, on a Balance of Payments basis

Banks: Finance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many banks in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough participated in the Working Capital Scheme. [9696]

Mr Prisk: The Working Capital Scheme (WCS) was launched last year to provide guarantees for banks; individual businesses were not eligible to apply for these guarantees. The banks participating in the WCS are Lloyds TSB and Royal Bank of Scotland. No geographic information is kept on the location of the loans in the guaranteed portfolios. No further guarantees will be available under the WCS although existing guarantees will be honoured.

Broadband

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what progress has been made on identifying the three rural market testing projects for superfast rural broadband announced on 8 June 2010; [9315]

(2) what progress has been made on the rollout of the superfast broadband project announced on 8 June 2010; what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the implications of the project for Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [9316]

Mr Vaizey: As stated in the coalition's joint programme for Government, we will seek to introduce superfast broadband in remote areas at the same time as in more populated areas. On 8 June, the Secretary of State for Culture, the Olympics, Media and Sport set out the Government's plans for ensuring the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by the end of the Parliament.

These plans include enabling access to existing infrastructure to reduce the cost of deployment, and we launched a discussion document on how best to do this on 15 July. Further, the Secretary of State has proposed three market testing projects for superfast broadband in rural areas, to be paid for with money left over from the Digital TV Switchover Help Scheme. The venues for these projects are currently under consideration. Candidates for these initiatives could be drawn from anywhere in the UK.

Officials from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, from the Scottish Government and the other Devolved Administrations will continue to work closely together to inform decisions on the location of projects. East Sutherland and Edderton ward, north of Inverness featured as a theoretical worked example at the Industry Day on 15 July.

Broadband: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the extent of availability of broadband services in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency; and if he will make a statement. [9027]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has made no recent assessment. However, Broadband Delivery UK is assessing current broadband provision at community level in its work on delivery of Universal Service Commitment and Next Generation Broadband Access.

Business: Government Assistance

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of additional businesses able to access credit as a result of the extension of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. [9292]

Mr Prisk: It is estimated that an extra 2,000 small and medium-sized enterprises could benefit from the £200 million extension of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) announced at the emergency Budget. The £200 million extension brings the EFG facility to a total of £700 million for this financial year.

Companies House

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the merits of bringing forward proposals to increase the power of Companies House to enforce the payment terms registered by large companies. [6730]

Mr Davey: There are no proposals to increase the powers of Companies House to enforce the payment terms registered by large companies.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many buildings his Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [6857]

Mr Davey: This Department occupies 1 Victoria street, Kingsgate House, Victoria street, and Westfield House, Earlsfield in London.

This Department also occupies space in the following buildings around the UK:

Companies House, Cardiff;

St Paul's Place, Sheffield;

St Mary's House, Sheffield (staff due to move to St. Paul's Place in October 2010);

Newtown House, Nottingham;

Exchange House, Watford;

Queensway House, Billingham;

Europa House, Glasgow;

3 Piccadilly Place, Manchester;

Mowden Hall, Darlington;

Castle View House, Runcorn.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7600]

Mr Davey: The information is as follows.

(a) The original DTI website was launched in 1996 and designed in-house at no cost (except staff time).

The first redesign was in 1998. The cost incurred for this is not recorded in the Department's electronic document management system, and the paper files could be accessed only at disproportionate cost.

In 2006 the site was moved on to a content management system and re-launched with a new design. The cost of this project overall was an estimated £175,000, as noted in the response to a Freedom of Information request published 16 June 2006 on the BIS website, titled 'Accessibility of DTI website' at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/foi/information-released

Detailed information about the costs of the Department's websites since June 2007, including redesigns, is readily available on the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/costs-usage

The cost of the project to create the unified BIS website

www.bis.gov.uk

launched March 2010, was £397,000. Taking these setup costs into account, the new service will save £2.5 million over the next four years compared to the cost of the contracts it replaces.

(b) I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

The information on the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is not held centrally and to provide this would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7600 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. However, Companies House spent £39,400 on website design in 2003.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 9 July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is unable to provide the information requested for each year since 1997 because accounting records are only available for the year 2003/04 onwards.

The Insolvency Service has not incurred any external costs on website design from 2003/04 onwards. Any costs incurred on website design from 2003/04 to date have been purely internal staff costs and it is not possible to quantify the cost to The Service of this work.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7600), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on website design in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have not spent any money on website design as our website was constructed using existing BIS templates.

Letter from John Alty, dated 16 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent £355,000 on website design in 2008. Prior to this all web design was done in house.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 15 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking about expenditure on website design in each year since 1997.

All website design work has been carried out by an external web development supplier since 2001. NMO managed their own website internally before this time, but no costs are available for this activity in the period 1997 to 2001. Detailed data on annual spend is available from 2003 onwards. Similarly detailed data on annual spend for 2001 and 2002 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost threshold.

The total amount spent by NMO each year on website design since 1 January 2003 and up to and including 31 December 2009 is as follows:

	Total spend on website design (£)
2003	6,505
2004	3,596
2005	21,410.02
2006	35,308.78
2007	33,685.21
2008	[1]90,586.58
2009	44,117.28

[1] Includes £45,000 in identifiable staff costs

For the purpose of compiling these figures, website design costs have been taken to include strategy and planning, design and build, hosting and infrastructure, content provision, testing and evaluation. Staff costs have been included only where available.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the last 12 months. [8856]

Mr Davey: This Department has spent nothing on maintaining its Twitter account in the last 12 months.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in the last 12 months. [8857]

Mr Davey: In April 2010 the Department spent £250 on the page design of its YouTube channel. There has been no other spending on this channel in the last 12 months.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in the last 12 months. [8870]

Mr Davey: The Department has spent nothing on maintaining its Flickr account in the last 12 months.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department are primarily engaged in maintaining social media and networking sites; and what estimate he has made of the cost of employing such staff in the last 12 months. [8872]

Mr Davey: The Department does not employ anyone specifically to maintain its participation in social media and networking sites. The Digital Communications team supports policy officials and Ministers to engage and inform a broad range of audiences using digital channels which include social media. Currently three individuals are involved as a small part of their total duties in managing the Department's presence on social websites Twitter, Flickr and YouTube. On average the work is that of approximately 0.15 full-time equivalent staff. Taking into account the grades of the individuals, the total the cost of this staff time is estimated as £500 per month.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7619]

Mr Davey: This Department's contracted maintenance service supplier does not keep a specific record for the purchase of light bulbs and it is not possible to separate spend on this item from the main contract fee.

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7619 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has only purchased very small amounts of light bulbs since 1997, as fluorescent strips, which are not classed as light bulbs, provide our main lighting. The small number of light bulbs we have purchased are part of larger, multi-product orders from more than one supplier, and we cannot determine the cost of this individual item.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is unable to supply a figure for these costs. These particular items are replaced as part of a wider maintenance contract and are not specifically charged for.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on light bulbs in each year since 1997.

The cost of light bulbs forms part of the charges which the Agency pays for facilities management of its building and a separate figure for this element could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7619), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on light bulbs in the Department and its agencies.

This information is not recorded separately and to determine this spend would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from John Alty, dated 16 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office does not have any expenditure on light bulbs. The Office is fitted with fluorescent lighting throughout. Costs for this are included with our general electrical supplies.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff his Department employed in each year since 1997. [8869]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 5 June 2009 from the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) which ceased to exist from that date.

BIS figures for the financial year ending March 2009/10 show BIS with 3,291 full-time and 398 part-time staff. The latest return to ONS (end of June 2010) shows BIS currently has 3,258 full-time staff and 400 part-time staff.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated Ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5547]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 7 June, *Official Report*, column reference 82W.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6444]

Mr Davey: BIS has spent a total of £2,800 on providing training to help Ministers undertake their official duties.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on training for its employees in each year since 1997. [7638]

Mr Davey: We are able to provide information on the Department's spend on training and development from 2004. Details of the training and development spend for the Department for the period 2004 to date are set out in the following table.

	£
2004	7 million
2005	8 million
2006	8 million
2007	6 million
2008	6 million
2009	6 million
2010	6 million
2011[1]	692,000

[1] Spend to date.

The information requested for our agencies and non-departmental bodies is not held centrally as these groups have their own delegated training budgets. Information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7638 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. Companies House costs for training for each year for which figures are available are as follows:

Financial year	£
2007-08	251,955
2008-09	365,929
2009-10	202,632

While we do not have figures for individual years earlier than 2007/08, I can confirm that the total amount spent on training in the five years from 2002-2006 is £1,966,480.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on training for its employees in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has no information on this expenditure for the years 1997 to 2003.

Between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2010, The Insolvency Service spent £11,088,567.79 on training. The yearly breakdown is as follows:

	£
2003-04	812,717.57
2004-05	1,135,441.05
2005-06	1,115,103.03
2006-07	1,250,505.75
2007-08	1,747,456.64

	£
2008-09	2,503,093.30
2009-10	2,524,250.45

These figures relate only to the direct costs of training and do not include travel and subsistence costs.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7638), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on employee training in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have spent £16,582 on training for employees.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on training in each year since 1997.

Information on such expenditure prior to January 2001 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, spent the following on training provided by either external training organisations or its parent department:

	£
2001	48,009.95
2002	38,926.11
2003	51,378.41
2004	43,517.39
2005	40,511.27
2006	22,248.14
2007	31,159.98
2008	65,357.79
2009	61,364.08

These figures do not include the internal costs of coaching, mentoring etc within the Agency.

Letter from John Alty, dated 16 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent the following sums on training:

	£000
2009-10	637
2008-09	1033
2007-08	538
2006-07	486
2005-06	453
2004-05	456
2003-04	537
2002-03	527
2001-02	491
2000-01	553
1999-2000	398

Earlier years are not available in the timescale.

Departmental Written Questions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [8858]

Mr Davey: A total of 121 named day parliamentary questions were tabled to this Department requiring an answer by 12 July 2010. Of these 84 (69%) received a substantive reply on the date requested. The Department continues to monitor performance in answering named day parliamentary questions in line with the Government's response to the Procedure Committee report on written parliamentary questions—7 December 2009 – HC 129.

Further Education

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning has had formal meetings with the (i) Secretary of State for Education and (ii) Minister for Schools to discuss further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [7539]

Mr Hayes: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, for Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has not yet met with the Secretary of State for Education or the Minister for Schools. The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, meets regularly with the Secretary of State for Education and the Minister for Schools to discuss issues relating to the delivery of post-compulsory education and training opportunities in his role as sponsor of the further education system. This includes discussion about issues relevant to further education colleges as appropriate.

Further Education: Capital Investment

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much capital grant support each further education college in Merseyside will receive in 2010-11. [9546]

Mr Hayes: The following table sets out those colleges who will receive capital support from the Skills Funding Agency in 2010-11 in the Merseyside area. In addition Hugh Baird College, Knowsley College, Riverside College Halton and Southport College are all eligible for the Renewal and the Enhanced Renewal Grant as part of the additional £50 million capital funding announced by the Chancellor on 24 May.

College	*Total (£)*
Hugh Baird College	93,619
Knowsley Community College	61,425
Liverpool Community College (1078/23)	255,302
Liverpool Community College (1096/23)	100,000
St Helens College	3,341,000
Birkenhead Sixth Form College	5,552
Carmel College	2,922,973
Total	6,779,871

Graduates: Employment

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to improve the employability of graduates. [7218]

Mr Willetts: We are committed to increasing employment by cutting the burden of national insurance on new businesses employing new staff in areas such as South Northamptonshire. We are cutting corporation tax over the next four years, and we are easing the burden of regulation.

In addition, I have asked universities to provide public statements on what they do to promote employability, so as to encourage them to increase the job-readiness of their students and to do better at getting their students into internships and work experience.

Higher Education

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of new campuses to be established under the New University Challenge programme in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011 and (iii) 2012. [8402]

Mr Willetts: No estimate has been made of the number of new campuses to be established under the New University Challenge programme. The timescale for taking forward any new campuses will depend on decisions in the spending review about resources for 2011-12 and beyond.

Higher Education: Job Creation

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of jobs which will be created under the New University Challenge programme in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011 and (iii) 2012. [8401]

Mr Willetts: No estimate has been made of the number of jobs we anticipate to be created under the New University Challenge programme in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The timescale for taking forward any new university centres will depend on decisions in the spending review about resources for 2011-12 and beyond.

Higher Education: Mental Health Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether he plans to evaluate the efficacy of mental health care provision in higher education institutions; [8591]

(2) if he will review the adequacy of the required minimum level of mental health care provision in higher education institutions; [9371]

(3) what guidance he issues to higher education institutions on their compliance with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 in respect of mental health care. [9372]

Mr Willetts: I have no plans to evaluate the efficacy or level of mental health care provision in higher education institutions. Universities have duties under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 (as amended) to support disabled staff and students in higher education, including those with mental health conditions. They will have similar duties under the Equality Act 2010, once its provisions start to come into force from October 2010. Universities are subject to the courts in the application of these duties.

There is guidance available to universities on supporting students and staff with mental health conditions from a range of sector and medical bodies, including the heads of University Counselling Services, the Association of Managers of Student Services in Higher Education (AMOSSHE), the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the former Disability Rights Commission and most recently from the UniversitiesUK/Guild HE Working Group for the Promotion of Mental Well-Being in Higher Education.

Learning and Skills Council for England

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff have transferred from the Learning and Skills Council to each regional development agency since April 2010. [8453]

Mr Hayes: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) ceased to exist on 31 March 2010 and the responsibility for distributing funding for training and education of post-19 adult learners outside of higher education was transferred to the Skills Funding Agency on 1 April 2010.

No staff have transferred from the Skills Funding Agency to Regional Development Agencies since April 2010. Some 31 staff are currently on secondment from the Skills Funding Agency to the Regional Development Agencies. These staff were seconded prior to April 2010. The staff have the right of return to the Skills Funding Agency when their secondments end.

Loans: Interest Rates

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to cap the interest rates which can be charged by lenders in the *(a)* pawnbroking, *(b)* payday loans and *(c)* home credit market. [8662]

Mr Davey: I recently announced a joint BIS and HM Treasury review of consumer credit and personal insolvency and my Department will be issuing a formal call for evidence after the summer recess. The review will cover all phases of the consumer credit lifecycle including the decision to borrow, the lifetime of a loan and what happens when things go wrong. I see this as an opportunity to ensure that we have a regulatory framework that is fair to consumers and creditors alike.

Among other things, the formal call for evidence will give industry and consumer groups the opportunity to provide evidence on how they think the findings and recommendations of the OFT review should be taken forward, including whether interest rate caps are an appropriate solution to the problems found in the market.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars were purchased under the Vehicle Scrappage scheme in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency during the scheme's operation. [8213]

Mr Prisk: Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been *(a)* 34,142 completed scrappage transactions in the West Midlands, *(b)* 1,912 in Dudley borough and *(c)* 212 in the Dudley North constituency (based on constituency boundaries prior to the recent general election). Due to the nature of the scheme, we will not have final data on completed scrappage transactions until approximately the beginning of September this year.

New Businesses: Older People

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist people aged over 50 years to start new businesses. [9163]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government are committed to making this decade the most entrepreneurial and dynamic in our history. We are putting in place a comprehensive, long-term approach to enterprise, which will include people aged over 50. We want more people over 50 to start businesses, and this means creating an environment where they see good start-up opportunities where they live, consider it a good career choice and have knowledge of other people who have successfully started their own businesses.

Overseas Trade: Kazakhstan

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what reports he has received from UK Trade and Investment on barriers to trade access in Kazakhstan. [8899]

Mr Prisk: The UK has worked closely with the European Commission, business and EU member states in identifying key market access barriers to trade with Kazakhstan as part of the EU's Market Access Strategy. This Department has also been following the process of Kazakhstan's World Trade Organisation accession process as an avenue for improving market access for UK business. Following the introduction of the Customs Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus on 1 January and the introduction of the Customs Union Customs Code applicable from 6 July, we have yet to hear of any new barriers to trade access in Kazakhstan.

While we are working to reduce the negative impact of several market access problems, Kazakhstan offers many good opportunities for UK companies to do profitable business. UKTI is actively exploring the potential in the energy, education and financial services sectors.

Post Offices: Access

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that post offices comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts relating to accessibility. [9394]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Post Offices: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* post office branches within supermarkets and *(b)* stand-alone post office branches are located in the London borough of Bexley. [9401]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Post Offices: Essex

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* post office branches within supermarkets and *(b)* stand-alone post office branches are located in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex; and if he will make a statement. [8717]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Post Offices: Finance

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the network subsidy payment is allocated to *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban post offices. [9393]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Post Offices: Nottingham

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if officials from his Department's Royal Mail and Postal Services Team will meet representatives of the campaign for Post Office services in Carrington, Nottingham to discuss the provision of Post Office branches. [9395]

Mr Davey: No. Decisions on the provision of post office services and location of post office outlets in any individual area are an operational matter for Post Office Ltd.

Post Offices: Urban Areas

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the prospects for establishing new post offices in urban areas; and if he will make a statement. [9396]

Mr Davey: Decisions on the provision of post office services and the establishment of new post office outlets in any individual area are an operational matter for Post Office Ltd.

Postage Stamps: Anniversaries

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with the Royal Mail the production of a commemorative stamp to mark the 350th anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer in 2012. [9206]

Mr Davey: Decisions relating to commemorative postage stamps are an operational matter for Royal Mail.

Royal Mail has a well-established process for choosing stamp themes and designs several years in advance of any issue. Anyone who has a suggestion for an anniversary is advised to put their suggestion direct to Royal Mail as early as possible. All suggestions are given consideration, but there can never be any guarantees that the suggestion will be taken up as the company receives over 2,000 suggestions each year.

Private Sector: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has assessed the effect of the proposals in the 2010 Budget on levels of private sector employment in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the Bridgend county borough council area in each of the next five years. [5945]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) does not produce employment forecasts. Detailed national employment forecasts have been published by the Office of Budgetary Responsibility (OBR) in the pre-budget forecast report.

The Office of Budget Responsibility in its forecast expects that employment will stabilise this year and rise from 2011 onwards, reaching just under 30 million in 2014. The International Labour Organisation unemployment rate peaks in 2010, before falling back to 6.25% in 2014. Claimant count unemployment continues to fall throughout the forecast.

A major area of uncertainty recognised by the Office of Budget Responsibility is whether, and to what extent, private sector spending and employment are able to fill the gap that the cuts in public spending in their forecast leave. In addition they do not make employment forecasts for devolved countries or local authorities.

Public Houses: Insolvency

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pub businesses have been declared bankrupt in each year since 1997. [8871]

Mr Davey: The level of industry classification the Insolvency Service reports on does not separately identify "pub businesses". The following table shows insolvencies in England and Wales for licensed premises (for 1997 to 2006) and bars (for 2007-09), within which public houses are included.

Insolvencies in England and Wales

	Compulsory liquidation	*Creditors' voluntary liquidation*	*Trading-related bankruptcy orders*	*Receivership*	*Administration*	*Company voluntary arrangement*
1997	158	n/a	965	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998	153	n/a	719	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999	144	n/a	733	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000	147	n/a	766	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	115	n/a	666	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	101	84	613	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	122	72	580	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	83	70	527	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	132	80	514	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006[1]	109	73	388	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007[2]	75	56	220	3	9	4
2008	170	163	657	7	44	23
2009	147	214	543	11	48	16

n/a = not available at this level of detail.

[1] Data only available for Q1-Q3 2006 due to a change in industry classification.

[2] Data only available for Q3-Q4 2007 due to a change in industry classification.

Note:

Data only available for Q2-Q4 for creditors' voluntary liquidation in 2002.

The Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify trading-related bankruptcies (and company liquidations) until end September 2006. More recently, the Standard Industry Classification 2003 has been in use and there have been associated changes to the method used to identify traders amongst bankrupts and company liquidations by industry. From September 2006 until June 2007 there is no information available by industry. The period covered should not, therefore, be treated as a consistent time series.

Renewable Energy: Research

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage universities to assist in the development of new, sustainable energy sources. [7163]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) provides funding to the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board (TSB). Research Councils and the TSB provide a range of support to universities, including funding for research into sustainable energy sources.

The Research Councils UK Energy Programme is an ongoing investment in research and postgraduate training, with a current portfolio of projects worth over £560 million. The programme supports a full spectrum of energy research to help the UK meet its energy and environmental targets and to ensure a secure, affordable, sustainable energy supply for all.

The TSB's current portfolio of energy research and development projects is worth over £150 million (including contributions from business), with the majority of these projects involving university partners. In addition, the Energy Generation and Supply Knowledge Transfer Network has recently been established to create a network of business, technology, academic and policy stakeholders interested in this area.

Royal Mail

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of ownership his Department plans to make available to *(a)* employees of Royal Mail and *(b)* private shareholders under his Department's proposals to create a shared ownership structure for Royal Mail. [8694]

Mr Davey: The coalition Government wish to secure the future of Royal Mail and to ensure the maintenance of the universal postal service. As set out in the coalition agreement, we will therefore seek to ensure an injection of private capital into Royal Mail, including opportunities for employee ownership. A Postal Services Bill to implement these measures was subsequently included in the Queen's Speech and we will announce further details of our plans in due course.

Science: Innovation

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to provide support for the science and innovation industry. [6717]

Mr Willetts: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Norfolk (George Freeman) during Business, Innovation and Skills oral questions on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 516.

Sector Skills Councils: Finance

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided to each sector skills council in the latest period for which figures are available. [8452]

Mr Hayes: In 2010-11, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has allocated £58,108,000 to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UK Commission) to contract with Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) for both their core activity supporting skills development within their sectors and other work creating and maintaining vocational qualifications and diplomas in England.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills also provides up to £8 million directly to Lifelong Learning UK.

		£000
Sector Skills Council	*UK Commission contracted funding 2010/11*	*BIS direct funding 2010/11*
Asset Skills	2,884	—
Cogent	2,125	—
ConstructionSkills	2,714	—
Creative and Cultural Skills	2,396	—
Energy and Utility Skills	2,753	—
e-skills UK	2,541	—
Financial Services Skills Council	2,021	—
GoSkills	2,128	—
Government Skills	510	—
Improve Ltd	2,113	—
Institute of Motor Industry (IMI)	2,194	—
Lantra	3,035	—
Lifelong Learning UK	1,987	Up to 8,000
People 1st	2,521	—
Proskills UK	2,152	—
Semta	2,450	—
Skills for Care and Development	1,949	—
Skills for Health	2,023	—
Skills for Justice	2,953	—

£000

Sector Skills Council	*UK Commission contracted funding 2010/11*	*BIS direct funding 2010/11*
Skills for Logistics	2,073	—
SkillsActive	2,103	—
Skillset	4,412	—
Skillsmart Retail	2,062	—
SummitSkills	1,940	—
Other	2,070	—
Total	58,108	Up to 8,000

Supermarkets: Competition

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on implementation of the Government's proposal to establish a grocery supply chain Ombudsman; what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [8716]

Mr Davey: The coalition Government are committed to introducing a body in the Office of Fair Trading, to enforce the Grocery Supply Code of Practice and curb abuses of power which undermine our farmers and act against the long-term interest of consumers.

We are carefully analysing some 60 responses offering a range of views on a consultation which ran from 5 February to 30 April. Recently, I have met, and listened to the views of Ministers and a wide range of stakeholders on the proposals for the new body and have further meetings planned. We intend to respond to the consultation soon.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax

Mary Creagh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures of inflation he plans to use to calculate the annual exempt amount for capital gains tax. [9128]

Mr Gauke: The annual exempt amount for capital gains tax continues to increase each year in line with the retail price index (RPI) measure of inflation. As announced at the Budget, the Government are reviewing how the consumer price index can be used for the indexation of taxes and duties while protecting revenues.

Car Allowances: Voluntary Work

Andrew Percy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of reviewing the Approved Mileage Allowance Payments Scheme in respect of their application to volunteer drivers. [8174]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* The approved mileage allowance scheme is used by many charities to refund volunteer drivers as a matter of convenience, but they are not obliged to do so. Where a charity wishes to pay its volunteer drivers a higher rate of allowance it is free to do so providing the rate paid is based on the actual costs incurred by the volunteer driver.

Child Trust Fund: Armed Forces

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children of service families have received payments from the Child Trust Fund in each year since its inception. [9645]

Mr Hoban: The Government do not hold information regarding the number of children of service personnel with a Child Trust Fund.

Coinage: Forgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of counterfeit coins in circulation. [8861]

Justine Greening: The Royal Mint and the Treasury are working with banks, the Post Office, cash handling and sorting businesses, the police and the vending industry to remove counterfeit £1 coins from circulation before they reach the pockets of members of the public. Coin handling businesses, such as banks and the Post Office, handle over three billion £1 coins every year. They use high-speed, automated systems to process customer deposits and prepare coin for reissue. These automated systems are capable of detecting and withdrawing a significant number of counterfeit coins. All counterfeit coins detected from coin processing are sent to the Royal Mint for disposal.

The Royal Mint holds briefings to educate the public and the coin handling industry on how to identify counterfeits, and has issued educational leaflets and posters.

The Royal Mint is also working with other validator and coin sorting manufacturers to help improve the counterfeit detection rate.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Alan Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the terms of reference are of the review of alcohol taxation announced in the June 2010 Budget. [8357]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* Details on the nature and scope of the review of alcohol taxation are available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/alcohol_taxation.htm

Excise Duties: Biofuels

Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of the exemption from fuel duty for exempt producers of biodiesel; and if he will make a statement. [8548]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the annual cost to the Exchequer of the two-year duty differential for used cooking oil biofuel are provided in table 1.2 of the 2009 pre-Budget report. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review.

House Insurance: Floods

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the insurance industry on the level of premiums and excesses for people whose houses flooded during 2007; and if he will make a statement. [9310]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Housing Benefit

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in City of Durham constituency. [8473]

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in Warrington North constituency. [9123]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Members to the answer given to the hon. Member for West Lancashire (Rosie Cooper) on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 184W.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr Spencer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of people in Scotland who will benefit from the increase in the threshold for payment of the basic rate of income tax. [9152]

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of people in *(a)* Leeds North West, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* West Yorkshire who will benefit from the increase in the threshold for payment of the basic rate of income tax. [9550]

Mr Gauke: The June 2010 Budget announced that the personal allowance for under-65s will be increased by £1,000 to £7,475 in 2011-12. To ensure that support will be focused on those on low and middle incomes the Government will reduce the level of the basic rate limit. The national insurance upper earnings/profit limit will also be reduced to keep it aligned with the income tax higher rate threshold.

The number of basic rate taxpayers in Scotland gaining from these measures is estimated to be 2.0 million in 2011-12, benefiting by up to £170.

This estimate is calculated using HMRC Personal Tax Model, based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 in line with June 2010 Budget assumptions.

Information at parliamentary constituency level is not available owing to small survey sample sizes at this level of geography, and because the information is based on the 2007-08 survey data which would not be reliable for this purpose.

Available information on tax by parliamentary constituency based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2007-08) can be found in Table 3.15 Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of low earners who will not pay income tax in 2011-12 as a result of the measures in the June 2010 Budget. [9291]

Mr Gauke: The personal allowance for under-65s will be increased by £1,000 in April 2011, with the gains limited to basic rate taxpayers. The Government estimate that the 880,000 lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether.

This estimate is calculated using HMRC Personal Tax Model, based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 in line with the June 2010 Budget assumptions.

Minimum Wage

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to ensure that employees receive at least the national minimum wage. [8866]

Mr Gauke: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is responsible for the policy on the national minimum wage (NMW).

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have worked closely with BIS to develop the NMW compliance strategy, available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/10-678-nmw-compliance-strategy.pdf

The compliance strategy recognises that a 'one size fits all' approach is unlikely to be the most effective, and that ensuring compliance with the NMW requires the use of a variety of tools and partnerships.

Where HMRC find non-compliance the employer is required to repay arrears of the NMW to their workers at current rates and pay an 'automatic' penalty. If an employer fails to pay the NMW following HMRC's intervention, HMRC can take civil proceedings on behalf of the worker or workers affected.

In the most serious cases where there is evidence that a criminal offence has been committed, HMRC refers cases for prosecution in line with the published policy on NMW enforcement and prosecution.

Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what valuation criteria are used in rating assessments in respect of convenience stores *(a)* located and *(b)* not located in or within the curtilage of petrol filling stations and forecourts. [8607]

Mr Gauke: The criterion used in the valuation of all properties for non domestic rating purposes is prescribed by statute; it is, broadly, the open market annual rental value of the property at the relevant valuation date.

The same valuation criterion is therefore used for the assessment of both convenience stores located in or within the curtilage of petrol filling stations and forecourt and those not located in or within the curtilage of petrol filling stations and forecourt.

The Government are aware of concerns about large increases in rateable value for petrol stations and will be looking to meet representatives of the industry to discuss their concerns.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions Ministers or officials in his Department have met representatives of the independent petrol forecourt industry in respect of the 2010 Valuation Office Agency revaluation scheme since 1 January 2010. [8693]

Mr Gauke: Officers of the Valuation Office Agency have met with agents representing the independent petrol retailers bodies on five occasions since 1 January 2010.

Office for Budget Responsibility

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms there are to ensure the independence of the Office for Budget Responsibility from his Department; and what arrangements he plans to introduce in his proposals to place the office on a statutory footing. [8545]

Justine Greening: The Terms of Reference of the interim Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) provide that: the OBR will be given direct control over the forecast and all the key judgments that drive it; the Budget Responsibility Committee will make all the key judgments and assumptions underpinning the interim OBR's forecasts, analysis and advice; the Treasury will be accountable to Parliament for ensuring that the interim OBR is properly and efficiently run; and that the OBR will have discretion over what material is published in fulfilling the remit set out in the Terms of Reference.

As set out in the Queen's Speech, the Government intend to bring forward a Bill to place the OBR on a statutory footing. The Chancellor will set out the arrangements for the permanent OBR to Parliament.

Poverty: Children

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of the benefits and taxation measures in the 2010 Budget on the number of children living in relative poverty resident in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* England, *(e)* Wales, *(f)* Northern Ireland and *(g)* the United Kingdom in fiscal years (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14, (iv) 2014-15 and (v) 2015-16. [7525]

Justine Greening: The Budget announced a package of reforms to tackle unaffordable spending and support the most vulnerable. For instance, the Budget announced a freeze in the rate of child benefit to help fund significant above-indexation increases in the child tax credit, which is better targeted to low income families. Measures announced in this Budget will have no measurable impact on child poverty over the next two years.

Estimates of the impact of Budget tax and benefits measures on the number of children in relative poverty are only available at the UK level, as lower geographical disaggregations do not provide sufficiently robust results.

Estimates post-2012-13 are not available due to greater uncertainty surrounding longer-term economic forecasts underpinning the modelling. The Government are developing a long-term strategy taking into account the causes as well as the symptoms of poverty. The right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) has been asked to lead a review, including of how to measure and make progress on non-financial aspects of poverty.

Public Expenditure: Merseyside

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on Merseyside of the Government's planned spending reductions. [9545]

Danny Alexander: The Government set out in their document "Spending Review Framework" (2.4, page 7) that they will

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions."

Research and Development Tax Credit

Richard Burden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of research and development tax credits in encouraging investment by small and medium-sized enterprises in hi-tech industries. [9148]

Mr Gauke: As part of the plans for corporate tax reform, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced at the emergency Budget that the Government will consult with business in autumn 2010 to review the taxation of intellectual property, the support R and D tax credits provide for innovation, and the proposals of the Dyson Review.

Annual numbers and costs of R and D tax credit claims, mainly by small and medium-sized hi-tech enterprises, are published as national statistics at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

The most recent figures, published on 18 December 2009, cover financial years up to 2007-08.

Revenue and Customs: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* office and *(b)* property at Queen's Dock, Liverpool; and if he will make a statement. [9476]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is currently reviewing its plans for the future of its office in Queen's Dock as part of a review of all HMRC premises across the city of Liverpool. The review is designed to determine what accommodation will be required to meet HMRC's medium and longer term operational needs. Plans for the office at Queen's Dock will not be established until this review has been completed. The property at Queen's Dock is occupied by HMRC under the 2001 Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) private finance initiative (PFI) contract and HMRC's interests in the property do not extend beyond its rights of occupation.

Tax Allowances: Video Games

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the analysis undertaken by his Department in 2009-10 on the effects on Exchequer revenue of providing tax relief for the computer games industry. [9716]

Mr Gauke: The cost of introducing a tax relief for the video games industry was published in the March 2010 Budget document, which can be found at

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100407010852/http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget2010_documents.htm

Taxation: Banks

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Financial Statement of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 175, what the evidential basis is for the statement that the proposed changes to taxation will result in a contribution from the banking sector which outweighs any benefit from lower tax rates. [8589]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Holborn and St Pancras (Frank Dobson) on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 610W.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government will take to meet its commitment to increase the share of revenues drawn from green taxes in the fiscal years *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and what proportion of overall revenues will be drawn from green taxes in each. [8744]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review and the decisions made about tax policy are made in the round alongside all other priorities. Forecasts for receipts from taxes are set out in table C11 of the Budget.

Unemployment

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the documents relating to his Department's presentation on the effects on unemployment levels of the June 2010 Budget. [6381]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 6 July 2010]*: The Office for Budget Responsibility has published the Budget forecast and supporting assumptions, including their judgment on the level of unemployment and employment over the forecast period. Details can be found in Table C2 and paragraphs C.20 and C.21 of the Budget document, available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget_easyread.htm

VAT

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* research he commissioned and *(b)* impact assessments he undertook other than those in Annex A of the Red Book in determining the rate of value added tax. [6386]

Mr Gauke: The Budget's VAT rate increase was driven by the need to address the deficit, which will benefit everyone.

Other than Annex A of the "Red Book", describing the distributional impacts of the Budget, the economic effects of the increase in the standard rate of VAT are set out in the Office for Budget Responsibility's Budget forecast at Annex C:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexc.pdf

The associated impact assessment, which describes the compliance costs for business, were published alongside the Budget:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_impact_assessments.pdf

VAT: Pensioners

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed rise in the standard rate of value added tax on the proposed cost of living for pensioners. [8721]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to reducing the Budget deficit while supporting the most vulnerable. The Emergency Budget demonstrated this commitment by confirming that the Government will uprate the basic state pension by a triple guarantee of earnings, prices and 2%—whichever is highest—from April 2011, benefiting over 11 million pensioners. The Government will increase the basic state pension in April 2011 by at least the equivalent of RPI.

To ensure the lowest income pensioners benefit from the triple guarantee, the standard minimum income guarantee in pension credit will receive an above-indexation increase in April 2011—increasing by the cash rise in a full basic state pension.

Many essential items that pensioners buy are zero-rated, while others are reduced-rated. On average, each percentage point increase in the standard rate of VAT will impact single pensioners by 0.3% of net income and pensioner couples by 0.4% of net income in 2012-13.

Welfare Tax Credits: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Liverpool Wavertree constituency receive tax credits; and how many of those have an annual income of over £30,000. [9784]

Mr Gauke: This information is published in the HMRC publication "Household Income distribution of Tax Credits families by Westminster Constituency—April 2010", a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, and will be published on HMRC's website shortly.

Welfare Tax Credits: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Warrington North with a family income of over *(a)* £15,000 and *(b)* £30,000 are in receipt of tax credits. [9230]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Warrington North constituency—families in receipt of the child care element of tax credits by income band household income

Household income	*Number*
Between £15,000 and £30,000	2,720
Over £30,000	3,000

This analysis is based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about this data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Wind Power: Offshore Structures

Edward Miliband: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the offshore wind infrastructure port development competition announced in the March 2010 Budget. [8754]

Justine Greening: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him today by the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change (UIN 8756).

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 20 July 2010

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Attorney-General what information he holds on the time taken by contractors employed by the Law Officers' Departments to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9261]

The Attorney-General: Like other Government offices the Law Officers' Departments follow the principles of the Prompt Payment Code, but no records are maintained on the time taken by contractors to pay sub-contractors. Such information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how many employees of the Law Officers' Departments attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to the Law Officers' Departments of such attendance in each such year. [9041]

The Attorney-General: The following table details the number of Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff who attended Civil Service Live, and an estimate of working hours on the basis of a 7:24 working day:

	Number of staff	*Number of working hours*
2008	63	456
2009	53	384
2010	15	109

It is not possible to provide a reliable estimate of the cost for each year as the identity of each of the members of staff that attended Civil Service Live is not available.

Some 14 members of Serious Fraud Office staff attended Civil Service Live 2010. Some 13 members spent half a day at the conference with one further employee attending for three days. These attendances were undertaken as part of their professional duties and came at no extra cost to the taxpayer. There are no records of SFO employees attending in 2008 or in 2009.

According to records the approximate number of Treasury Solicitor's Department staff who booked to attend Civil Service Live for one day or a part of one day was:

	Number of staff
2008	50
2009	34
2010	46

The figures for 2010 also include members of staff in the Attorney-General's Office who attended the event. Records on attendance by staff in the Attorney-General's Office are not held for previous years and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The Department does not hold information relating to the number of hours taken up attending Civil Service Live and the cost of attendance.

The National Fraud Authority and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate have not identified any employees who attended Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 or 2010.

WALES

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many employees of her Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate she has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to her Department of such attendance in each such year. [9058]

Mr David Jones: No employees attended the Civil Service Live events in any of the three years listed.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds: Licensing

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in England have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted (i) in full and (ii) in part a licence to control herring gulls and greater black-backed gulls since those species were removed from general licences; what the reasons were for each such application; and how many birds of each species (A) have been allowed to be culled and (B) have been culled under such licences. [9307]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Herring gulls and greater black-backed gulls were removed from some English general licences on 1 January 2010, as a result of their declining conservation status. The following table gives statistics regarding applications and individual licences for these two species from 1 January 2010 to 14 July 2010.

Natural England records full details of the licences that are issued rather than all the activities applied for, so the licences may have granted the application in full or in part. Information on the numbers of birds killed under these licences will be available when the licences expire.

	Applications received	*Granted*	*Purpose/reason*	*Action permitted*	*Licences issued*	*Number licensed*
Herring gull	155	21	Health and safety	Shooting	17	1,619

	Applications received	*Granted*	*Purpose/reason*	*Action permitted*	*Licences issued*	*Number licensed*
				Cage trapping	4	216
		98	Conservation	Shooting	86	2,380
				Egg oiling	0	0
				Nest/egg destruction/ relocation	10	95
				Trap (net and kill)	2	35
		1	Preventing serious damage	Shooting	1	30
		120		Total	120	4,375
Great black-backed gull	110	8	Health and safety	Shooting	4	370
				Egg oiling	1	150
				Nest/egg destruction	3	125
		84	Conservation	Shooting	78	1,155
				Egg oiling	0	0
				Nest/egg destruction/ relocation	5	32
				Trap (net and kill)	1	2
		92		Total	92	1,834

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much it has cost to administer the individual licensing arrangements for the culling of herring gulls and greater black-backed gulls since these gulls were removed from English general licences for the control of pest birds. [9308]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Herring gulls and greater black-backed gulls were removed from some English general licences on 1 January 2010, as a result of their declining conservation status.

Natural England estimates the cost of processing individual licence applications for these species from 1 January 2010 to 14 July 2010 to be £57,000.

This includes set-up costs; future costs will be substantially less. These costs are partly off-set by the addition of two species of parakeet and two species of goose to general licences.

Fisheries: Quotas

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fish were discarded for the purpose of meeting EU quotas in 2009. [9331]

Richard Benyon: UK fisheries laboratories send observers to sea to record the quantity of fish discarded and retained by fishing vessels. This sampling is intended to provide estimates of discards of the main commercial species, but at present is not representative of all UK fisheries. It is also only possible to sample a proportion of the vessels participating in any fishery. As a consequence, estimates of total discards are subject to uncertainty and the resolution of the data does not usually allow us to distinguish between the specific reasons for discards (e.g. over-quota, under legal minimum landing size or high-graded).

The analysis of 2009 discards data is not yet complete. We are therefore unable to provide an estimate of how many fish were discarded in pursuit of EU quotas in 2009. However, in 2008 around 440,000 tonnes of quota stocks were landed by UK vessels. These were caught in a wide range of different areas and fisheries, many of which were not sampled by scientific observers. Estimates of discards for 2008 are available for the following fisheries:

Fleet

English and Welsh vessels over 10 metres in length.

Areas

North sea (ICES area IV), and waters to the south and west of England and Wales (ICES area VII).

Species

Demersal quota species (cod, haddock, plaice, sole, anglerfish etc.)

Estimated 2008 catches

37,000t - 27,600t were landed and 9,400t discarded.

Fleet

Scottish vessels over 10 metres in length.

Areas

North sea (ICES area IV), and west of Scotland (ICES Division VIa).

Species

Cod, haddock, whiting and saithe.

Estimated 2008 catches

91,700t - 56,600t were landed and 35,100t discarded.

Fleet

UK vessels fishing for pelagic species.

Areas

All areas.

Species

Mackerel, horse mackerel, herring, sprat, blue whiting.

Estimated 2008 catches

203,200t - 198,300t were landed and 4,900t discarded.

In total these fisheries are estimated to have caught around 332,000t of the relevant species in 2008, of which 283,000t was landed and 49,000t were discarded.

Hill Farming

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications were received for assistance under the hill farm allowance scheme in 2009. [9341]

Mr Paice: The total number of claims received for the hill farm allowance payment for 2009 was 8,213. Of these, 7,023 claims were eligible with payments totalling £23.9 million.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications have been received for the Upland Entry Level Scheme. [9361]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* As of 1 July, over 2,000 applications had been received for Uplands Entry Level Stewardship (ELS), and a total of 1,888 agreements were able to be given this earliest start date. Under Uplands ELS, 103,000 hectares of land were covered, and a further 163,168 hectares of land under combined Uplands ELS/Higher Level Stewardship.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect of what area of land in England hill farm allowance payments were made in 2009. [9362]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The hill farm allowance (HFA) was a Less Favoured Area measure under the Rural Development Programme for England and was replaced this year by Uplands Entry Level Stewardship. HFA payments in 2009 totalled £23.9 million in respect of just over 968,000 hectares of land within the Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA).

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what area of land is eligible for applications for Uplands Entry Level Scheme payments. [9363]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Uplands farmers managing land in Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDA) of England are eligible for applications under the Uplands Entry Level Stewardship (ELS). In total, this covers nearly 1.3 million hectares of land. However some of this land is currently managed under existing Countryside Stewardship Scheme or Environmentally Sensitive Areas agreements, and will become eligible for Uplands ELS when these agreements expire between 2011-14.

Marine Disposal: Rame Head South

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the location of marine disposal site PLO31 at Rame Head South; and if she will make a statement. [9336]

Richard Benyon: I have received several representations from local people, and am aware that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has held a meeting with local representatives to listen to their concerns about the Rame Head disposal site.

In order to ensure that these concerns are addressed, I have therefore asked the MMO to re-examine the Rame Head case by commissioning an independent review of evidence from CEFAS, and local sources. This will enable us to assess whether the original conditions, under which licences were granted, remain valid and environmental effects are tolerable.

This process will be personally overseen by the chair of the MMO, and the MMO's new chief scientific adviser. I will write to my hon. Friend with further details once the terms of reference for the review have been finalised.

Peat

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to continue to *(a)* phase out the use of peat by 2020 and *(b)* reduce the use of peat by 90 per cent. by 2010. [9038]

Richard Benyon: We are currently considering our approach to a new policy to reduce the horticultural use of peat in growing media, including future targets for its reduction. The most recent data for peat sales throughout 2009 will be published shortly, and will feed into the development of future policy.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9244]

Mr Paterson: The Department does not hold this information.

In line with the recent Budget announcement, the Department is including a clause in all new contracts awarded with suppliers to ensure that suppliers pay their sub-contractors within 30 days. The Department will also be encouraging its suppliers to pay faster than 30 days where the Department itself is paying in 10 days or fewer.

SCOTLAND

Broadband: Scotland

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps the Government plans to take to support access to high-speed broadband in Scotland. [9155]

Michael Moore: As stated in the Coalition's joint programme for government, we will seek to introduce superfast broadband in remote areas at the same time as in more populated areas. On 8 June, the Secretary of

State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport set out the Government's plans for ensuring the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by the end of the Parliament.

These plans include enabling access to existing infrastructure to reduce the cost of deployment. A discussion document on how best to do this was launched on 15 July. Further, the Secretary of State has proposed three market testing projects for superfast broadband in rural areas, to be paid for with money left over from the Digital TV Switchover Help Scheme. The venues for these projects are currently under consideration.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in respect of *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* telephone calls since 6 May 2010. [10138]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office has paid £17 in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in respect of travel since 6 May 2010. Similarly, £482 has been paid in respect of accommodation. No reimbursable expenses have been paid to special advisers in respect of telephone calls since 6 May 2010.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland to what newspapers and periodicals his Department subscribes; and at what cost in the last 12 months. [10137]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office currently subscribes to the following papers and periodicals:

Courier
Daily Express
Daily Mail
Daily Record
Daily Telegraph
Financial Times
Herald
Press & Journal
Scotsman
Sun
Times.

Our estimated cost for the year is £4,090.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have discussions with the US administration on an offer to loan or transfer to NATO allies a package of counter-improvised explosive devices measures, including detection equipment; and if he will make a statement. [5272]

Dr Fox: I have discussed the seriousness of the threat NATO troops face from improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan with my US counterpart on a number of occasions, including during my recent visit to the US, from 28 June to 2 July. We have had no formal discussions on whether to loan or transfer a package of counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) measures to our NATO allies.

We have effective mechanisms in place to share C-IED information with our allies, and this is regularly reviewed.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the highest amount paid by service personnel for *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living service accommodation was in the last 12 months. [9627]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The highest service family accommodation charge is for type 1 grade 1 furnished accommodation at £25.15 per day plus a contribution in lieu of council tax (CILCOT) charge of £5.65 per day. The highest single service living accommodation charge is for senior officer grade 1 accommodation at £6.05 per day plus CILCOT of £0.32 per day.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total monetary value was of rent subsidies provided for service accommodation in the last 12 months. [9628]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* While a level of abatement to reflect the disadvantages of living in service accommodation is applied to accommodation charges of service personnel, this is a matter of judgement for the independent Armed Forces' Pay Review Body which is responsible for providing advice to the Government on the remuneration and charges for service personnel.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of *(a)* repairs, *(b)* water and sewage rates and *(c)* council tax in respect of service accommodation was in the last 12 months. [9629]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The cost in financial year 2009-10 of repairing and maintaining service family accommodation (SFA), excluding major upgrade projects, other new works or the replacement of carpets, was £124.1 million.

SFA occupancy charges for service personnel include an element to cover the costs of water and sewage rates, so there is effectively no cost to the public purse. Occupants also pay contributions in lieu of council tax to cover the cost to the Department of paying council tax.

Information relating to single living accommodation is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to the Royal British Legion's request to publish details of the proposed upgrade of armed forces accommodation. [9647]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* As part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review we will look at whether there is scope to refurbish armed forces accommodation from efficiencies within the MOD.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to improve support for those in the armed forces at risk of post-traumatic stress. [9353]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence has a wide range of measures in place to manage the mental health of our personnel. In addition, the current Strategic Defence and Security Review will include consideration of possible enhancements to medical care for armed forces personnel, including mental health care. The Prime Minister has also asked my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Andrew Murrison) to carry out a study into the health of both serving and ex-service personnel to see what more can be done to assess and meet these needs; a focus of this study will be mental health.

Army: Radio

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many army radios have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 12 months. [8863]

Nick Harvey: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chiefs of Staff: Expenses

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to publish the expenses of senior members of the armed forces on a quarterly basis; and if he will make a statement. [9575]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Work on the first period to be published, the quarter from January to March this year, is under way and the information will be published as soon as we can be sure that it is complete and accurate.

Defence Equipment

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the £19 million funding for dismounted close combat equipment announced by his Department on 7 July 2010 will provide equipment additional to that announced prior to 6 May 2010; [8642]

(2) whether the £158 million funding for base equipment announced by his Department on 7 July 2010 will provide equipment additional to that announced prior to 6 May 2010; and what proportion of the funding will be allocated to *(a)* Bowman tactical radios and *(b)* patrol satellite systems. [8643]

Peter Luff: The funding of up to £189 million announced on 7 July will provide additional equipment for UK troops in support of operations in Afghanistan, all of which is over and above any announcements made prior to 6 May 2010. Subject to HM Treasury approval, this will include up to £19 million for dismounted close combat equipment, up to £158 million for base protection equipment, including communications and surveillance equipment, of which approximately £35 million will be allocated to Bowman tactical radios and £0.9 million to patrol satellite communications.

Ex-Servicemen

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to increase the level of support available to veterans provided by his Department. [8636]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The Government provide a comprehensive programme of support for ex-service personnel. This includes: an excellent resettlement package for service personnel returning to civilian life; high-quality pension and compensation schemes; measures to meet veterans' health and welfare needs.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has recently put in place a number of initiatives to improve the support given to veterans, including:

The launch of a national point of contact to ensure that service personnel, families and veterans are able to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the voluntary and charitable sector facilitating the delivery of services across all sectors by raising awareness of entitlement at all levels.

Working with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations to improve the access of early service leavers (ie those that have served less than four years) to social housing and temporary accommodation.

Working with a range of partners across Government, the Prison Service, the devolved Administrations, and with voluntary and charitable sector organisations to better serve veterans in prison. The Ex-Service Offenders Working Group promotes the support available to veterans both before and after their release. MOD will continue to work with these agencies to help reduce the risk of re-offending amongst the ex-service community.

Changes to the legislation governing the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) following the review led by Admiral the Lord Boyce and the setting up of an independent medical expert body to advise on compensation on particular illnesses and injuries are being implemented. All legislative changes will take place by February 2011.

The Prime Minister has asked Dr Andrew Murrison MP to conduct an independent study into the provision of MOD and NHS support and services to the armed forces and ex-service personnel and to make recommendations particularly in the area of mental health.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Members

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what circumstances hon. Members who have visited *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan on official business are eligible to receive operational service medals. [9984]

Mr Robathan: Members of Parliament who visit operational theatres do not meet the qualifying criteria for the campaign medal and as a consequence are not eligible and do not receive any such medal.

A Member of Parliament would only qualify for an official campaign medal if he or she was a member of the reserve forces and officially mobilised to an operational theatre. There are Members of the House who are Reservists and as such have been mobilised to operational theatres.

Military Bases

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many permanent UK military headquarters there are; where each is located; who has command at each such headquarters; and what the staff is of each. [8815][1]

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[1] *[Official Report, 16 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 3-4MC.]*

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* There are five permanent military headquarters (HQ) in the UK. Details of the location, who has command and staff employed at each are shown in the following table:

Military HQ	*Location*	*Commanded by*	*Number of staff*	*Of which:* *Military*	*Civilian*
Ministry of Defence (MOD)—Head Office	MOD Main Building London	Secretary of State for Defence	2,920	1,070	1,850
Navy—HQ Navy Command	Portsmouth	Commander in Chief Fleet	1,420	863	557
Army—HQ Land Forces	Andover	Commander in Chief Land Forces	2,077	1,075	1,002
RAF—HQ Air Command	High Wycombe	Commander in Chief Air	2,099	1,476	623
Permanent Joint HQ—Operations Joint HQ	Northwood	Chief of Joint Operations	593	476	117

Type 45 Destroyers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of the outcomes of the recent test firing of Type 45 missile systems; and if he will make a statement. [8838]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 3-4W.

TRANSPORT

A338

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the roadworks on the A338 between Ringwood and Bournemouth. [10126]

Mike Penning: The Department has received no representations on the mentioned scheme.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7625]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and therefore no records exist for the Department prior to that date.

The majority of the Department does not record the purchase of light bulbs as a separate category as they are an integral part of facilities management or mechanical and electrical contracts.

The following table shows the known expenditure on light bulbs for those parts of the Department who record those costs separately. The non-departmental public body figure includes Northern Lighthouse Board and Trinity House Lighthouse service.

								Expenditure on light bulbs (£)
Organisation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Central Department	n/a	n/a	n/a	67	64	513	35	10
Executive agencies	521	n/a	n/a	75	n/a	144	298	699
NDPBs	13,009	11,218	12,656	3,956	6,127	8,143	13,044	10,306

Driving: Training

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons his Department plans to introduce mandatory eco-driving training as part of the driver certificate of professional competence; what definition his Department uses of the term eco-driving; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such a programme; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the programme to the public purse. [9235]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has consulted on options for increasing the up-take of eco-driving training for large goods vehicle and passenger carrying vehicle drivers. One of the options was to make eco-driver training a mandatory part of the driver certificate of professional competence. The two other options were: (i) to keep the voluntary nature of eco-driving training; and (ii) to keep it voluntary and also increase promotion of the benefits of the training. The consultation closed on 30 June 2010 and the Government will publish their response following a full analysis of the consultation responses.

The definition of eco-driving training used in the consultation document is training that includes some or all of the following elements: how to improve aerodynamic performance; how to drive at efficient speeds; fuel efficiency and choice of gear; best practice for acceleration and braking; and anticipation of traffic and driving conditions. This definition was also subject to consultation.

The Department's preliminary analysis showed that if 90% of large goods vehicle drivers were eco-driving trained and continued to drive in that manner, around 3 million tonnes of CO_2 and £300 million in fuel costs could be saved by the industry over a five year period. An initial impact assessment for each of the options was published with the consultation document and views invited. A further full assessment of the effectiveness of the option chosen and its cost to Government will be undertaken once the analysis of responses is complete.

Electric Vehicles

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to encourage the development of the infrastructure needed for electric cars. [9534]

Norman Baker: We announced in the coalition agreement, that the Government will mandate a national charging infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. We are carefully considering a range of delivery options, but decisions have yet to be taken.

Freight

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to encourage a modal shift of freight from road to rail. [9881]

Mike Penning: The Government currently encourage the transfer of freight from road to rail, where it is practical, economic and environmentally sustainable to do so, through two grant schemes to assist with the operating costs where these are higher than for road, and to help offset the capital cost of providing freight handling facilities.

In June this year the Government decided to maintain the current level of expenditure on rail and water freight operating grants for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

While I recognise the benefits that grant funding to encourage modal shift from road to rail freight can bring, the current financial climate means that we will have to make difficult spending decisions across Government. Decisions on the future of freight grant schemes will therefore be reached as part of the spending review.

M1

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the M1 motorway to be free of roadworks between junctions 1 and 32; and if he will make a statement. [9113]

Mike Penning: Given its usage, age and strategic importance, there will always be a need to undertake routine and emergency works on the M1 to keep the motorway in a safe and serviceable condition. Some resurfacing/patching will be carried out over the next two years. These works will be carried out in the majority of cases overnight to keep disruption to a minimum, and in most cases delays will be minimal.

It is anticipated that the works to the M1 motorway between junction 10 and 13 will be completed in spring 2013.

The replacement of Catthorpe viaduct at M1 junction 19 started on 12 July 2010 and is due to end in spring 2012.

Details of maintenance works will be published in weekly press bulletins, and on the Highways Agency website.

There may also be some additional works required on sections of the M1 motorway this year to finalise and complete technology works between M1 junction 6a to 10 and M1 junction 25 to 28. Works will be carried out overnight to keep the disruption to the travelling public to a minimum.

The M1 has recently been widened to four lanes in both directions from junctions 25 to 28. The lanes opened to traffic in May this year completing ahead of the programme schedule.

The information above relates to schemes currently in construction and ongoing maintenance of the network.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons two separate sections of contraflow are in operation on the M1 north and south of Toddington services; what consideration was given to carrying out each roadworks project consecutively; and if he will make a statement. [9135]

Mike Penning: Two contraflows with a 50 mile per hour speed limit are currently in operation between M1 junctions 10 and 11 and junctions 12 and 13 while work to repair embankments, build emergency refuge areas and install gantries is ongoing.

As the proposed improvements to junction 11 and junction 12 require the acquisition of land, statutory process has to be followed and therefore work cannot be carried out on these junctions in advance of completion of that process. Work has subsequently been sequenced so that this does not have a detrimental effect on the overall length of the contract.

The two sections of contraflow between junctions 10 and 13 on the M1 form part of the same scheme and are being delivered as part of the same contract.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the roadworks north of junction 10 of the M1 to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [9073]

Mike Penning: Two contraflows with a 50 mile per hour speed limit are currently in operation between Junctions 10 and 11 and Junctions 12 and 13 on the M1 while work to repair embankments, build emergency refuge areas and install gantries is ongoing.

It is anticipated that the roadworks north of Junction 10 of the M1 will be completed in spring 2013.

Merchant Shipping

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 14WS, on Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations, what representations he has received on his proposal to review the Regulations from *(a)* harbour authorities, *(b)* oil and shipping companies or representative associations, *(c)* environmental non-governmental organisations and *(d)* others to date. [8618]

Mike Penning: Since making the announcement on 8 July, I have, to date, received the following representations from:

(a) Harbour authorities: One.

(b) Oil and shipping companies or representative associations: None.

(c) Environmental non-governmental organisations: None.

(d) Others: Two.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department takes to ensure registered keepers of private cars pay vehicle excise duty; and if he will make a statement. [8704]

Mike Penning: A comprehensive package of measures is in place making vehicle excise duty convenient to pay but difficult to evade. Registered keepers are sent renewal reminders to alert them that the vehicle excise duty is due and offering a variety of ways to license their vehicle. Online and telephone services are used by a large number of customers together with the traditional paper service at the Post Office.

Those who fail to license their vehicles are subject to proportionate enforcement measures ranging from automated penalties from the vehicle record, through to direct enforcement action such as the wheel clamping, impounding and, ultimately, disposal of the unlicensed vehicle. The latest national statistics on vehicle excise duty evasion shows that this package of measures has been successful and 99.4% of all revenue payable in 2009 was collected.

Railways: East Anglia

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take in response to the Greater Anglia rail franchise: what passengers want report produced by Passenger Focus in April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [8905]

Mrs Villiers: We will consult shortly on rail franchising policy and will announce the time frame for responding when it is published. We intend to let the new Greater Anglia franchise under the reformed system on which we will be consulting shortly and expect to advertise it by the end of the year.

Evidence from Passenger Focus on passenger priorities will be taken into account when decisions on the franchise specification and the award of the franchise are made.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the merits of putting a legal limit on the number of passengers who can travel in a train carriage. [5603]

Mrs Villiers: I currently have no plans to assess the merits of putting a legal limit on the number of passengers who can travel in a rail carriage. There is no evidence that a limit is required for safety reasons. A legal limit would be difficult to enforce and might require all rail passengers to book in advance or risk not being allowed to travel. This would be very unpopular with many rail users and probably unworkable on commuter sections of the railway, where most crowding occurs.

The scope for future investment in additional rolling stock capacity will depend on decisions that will be made in the spending review.

The forthcoming consultation on rail franchising will also consider ideas for addressing passenger concerns regarding crowding levels.

Railways: Theft

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to reduce the incidence of cable theft close to railway lines in the North East. [8697]

Mrs Villiers: Metal theft is a crime which hits the railway particularly hard and causes levels of disruption out of all proportion to the value of the material stolen. That is why the British Transport Police (BTP), as the national police force for the railway, is in the forefront of efforts to tackle the problem.

The British Transport Police led a national day of action on 14 July bringing together police forces, Network Rail, the scrap metal industry and others with an interest in the subject. The aim was to target both the thieves themselves and the scrap yards where they seek to sell stolen material. This is part of a continuing campaign to deal with cable and other metal theft, both in the north-east and across the country as a whole.

Roads: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what road improvements will take place on the A1 in Nottinghamshire in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [7893]

Mike Penning: Currently there are no road improvements (as opposed to maintenance activity) that will take place on the A1 in Nottinghamshire in the next 12 months.

In the longer term, there are two schemes planned on the A1 in Nottinghamshire:

A1 Elkesley Junction Improvement: In line with other schemes, the public inquiry for this scheme has been deferred until the spending review is concluded.

A1/B6387 Twyford Bridge Improvements: This scheme is split into two phases with the first phase (slip road improvements) being developer funded.

Sea Rescue

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rescue boats operating in the UK are not operated by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution but have the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as their launching authority. [8873]

Mike Penning: Independent lifeboats are rescue boats which are declared facilities according to a specific standard or set criteria as agreed with the MCA.

There are 52 independent lifeboats in the UK that are declared for Search and Rescue (SAR) to the MCA. The MCA will request their attendance for search and rescue purposes as part of its role in the co-ordination of UK SAR activities. Authority to launch following a request from the MCA rests with the operators of the boat concerned.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will issue guidance to local authorities and Transport for London on the implementation of his policy not to fund additional speed cameras; and if he will make a statement. [9087]

Mike Penning: On 24 June I wrote to all local authorities in England and Wales, including Transport for London, setting out the Government's position on speed cameras. My letter confirms that central Government will no longer fund new fixed speed cameras and encourage authorities to consider the full range of local road safety interventions, including educational and engineering solutions. I want to work with local authorities and the police on ways of making local partners accountable to local voters for the decisions they take on the location of cameras and the scale of camera operations, and for the financial consequences of those decisions. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to require that his Department is consulted on any proposals to introduce average speed camera checks; and if he will make a statement. [9202]

Mike Penning: There are no plans to compel authorities to consult the Department for Transport prior to introducing average speed cameras. The use of cameras is a matter for highway authorities who are able to use their own resources to fund them if they wish to do so. However, I am keen to improve the transparency of camera operations and will ask authorities to make data about effectiveness and impact of individual cameras available to local people.

Vehicle Operator Services Agency

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the Vehicle Operator Services Agency. [8671]

Mike Penning: The scope for improving value for money from the Department for Transport and its Agencies is being assessed in the context of the current spending review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: International Assistance

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many micro-grants the International Security Assistance Force has made to Afghan citizens who own businesses in the last two months. [7876]

Mr Hague: The International Security Assistance Force has no allocated funds for 'micro-grants'.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of active fighters in the Haqqani network. [7877]

Mr Hague: We conduct regular assessments on the nature and scale of the insurgency in Afghanistan. This includes the use of International Security Assistance Force reporting and statistics.

The Haqqani network is a familial network with its leadership based in North Waziristan. It historically operates within the Zadran tribal areas centred on Paktia, Paktika and Khost provinces. It is reliant on a committed group of insurgents which we judge to be in its hundreds, but it also has links to other insurgent groups.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of reintegration shura which have taken place in *(a)* Marjah and *(b)* Helmand Province. [7875]

Mr Hague: We are aware of one public reintegration shura in Helmand. On 23 June 2010, the Deputy Governor of Helmand, Abdul Sattar, and Haji Zahir—who was at the time District Governor of Marjah—presided over a shura focused on reintegration. The shura was held at Forward Operating Base Sher Wali, in northern Marjah. It is estimated that 80-100 Marjah elders attended.

Reintegration messages are delivered frequently by Afghan authorities throughout Helmand, at more general public shura. Reintegration messages are also provided in a range of other forums, such as at prisoner release shura and at more general district outreach events. In addition, we understand that Afghan officials and bodies frequently discuss reintegration at internal meetings.

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the absence of provincial governors from the Kabul Peace Jirga; and if he will make a statement. [7878]

Mr Hague: The Consultative Peace Jirga in Kabul was an inclusive event that was attended by a representative cross-section of Afghans. The 1,600 attendees comprised representatives from Parliament, Provincial Councils, Provincial and District Governors, civil society and women's groups. All Provincial and District Governors were invited, and the Conference was delayed by two days to try and enable those travelling longer distances to attend. We understand that most Provincial Governors were able to attend.

As the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 603, this Government will provide regular updates to the House on the progress we are making in Afghanistan.

Asia: International Cooperation

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards setting a date for the trilateral meeting between the governments of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [7686]

Mr Hague: The next trilateral meeting between Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan is due to be hosted in Pakistan. The Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not yet announced when this meeting will take place.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9253]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not capture data covering payments between contractors and sub-contractors. All FCO contracts include the following paragraph to ensure that payments are made promptly:

> "Where the Contractor enters into a sub-contract for the provision of any part of the Services, the Contractor shall ensure that a term is included in the sub-contract which requires the Contractor to pay all sums due to the sub-contractor within a specified period, not exceeding 30 days from the date of receipt of a valid invoice as defined by the terms of that sub-contract."

English Channel

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to oppose any proposals to change the name of the English Channel at the next United Nations Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names. [9096]

Mr Lidington: The Government are not aware of any formal proposals in this regard and would vigorously oppose any such action.

European Parliament

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement on European Parliament Transitionary Protocol of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, when he expects to announce details of the process to be undertaken to elect the additional MEP for the UK. [9800]

Mr Lidington: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are consulting colleagues in government on the process to be undertaken. The Government will announce the details once this process has been completed.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement on European Parliament Transitionary Protocol of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, who the British representative was at the intergovernmental conference. [9801]

Mr Lidington: The Intergovernmental Conference took place in the margins of the 23 June 2010 meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of EU member states. Therefore, the Government's representative was Sir Kim Darroch, the UK's Permanent Representative to the EU.

European Parliament Elections

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, on the European Parliament Transitionary Protocol, whether the Electoral Commission was consulted on the arrangements for electing a new UK MEP before the intergovernmental conference on 23 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [8599]

Mr Lidington: The transitionary Protocol concerning the composition of the European Parliament is a technical change to the Treaty relating to numbers of MEPs. It allows 18 extra MEPs provided for by the Lisbon Treaty to take their seats now rather than in 2014. The UK receives an extra MEP as a result.

The Protocol does not determine how, or from which UK European parliamentary electoral region, the UK's additional MEP should be elected; rather that the MEP should be elected using one of the methods set out in the Protocol. Therefore, no prior consultation of the Electoral Commission was needed. Details of the process to be undertaken to elect the UK's extra MEP will be announced in due course, and the Electoral Commission will be consulted fully at the appropriate time, as required by the relevant legislation.

Forced Marriage

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of forced marriages which occurred in the UK in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [8536]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are clear that forced marriage is an abuse of human rights, a form of domestic violence and, where minors are involved, child abuse.

The very nature of forced marriage means that cases often go unreported. The statistics we do have are based on the work of the Forced Marriage Unit. In calendar year 2009 the Unit dealt with 1,682 reports of possible forced marriage and, as of the end of June, has dealt with 893 in 2010. This includes cases in the UK and involving British nationals overseas. It is likely that there are many more cases that are not drawn to the Unit's attention and we will continue to raise awareness of the help available.

Kashmir

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects for peace in Kashmir; and if he will make a statement. [9924]

Alistair Burt: We discuss Kashmir with both Indian and Pakistani Government officials regularly, and make clear our hope that they can make progress on the issue. But the long standing position of the UK is that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution to the situation in Kashmir, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution or to mediate in finding one.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan and *(c)* Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. [9538]

Alistair Burt: We continue to call on all three countries to sign the non-proliferation treaty (NPT). Most recently the final document agreed at the NPT Review Conference in May 2010 called again for India, Pakistan, and Israel to accede to the treaty as non-nuclear-weapon states and to place all their nuclear materials and facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. Universalisation of the NPT is a long-standing UK and EU objective.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his counterpart in *(a)* the government of Israel and *(b)* the Palestinian Authority the evacuation notices served on members of the Palestinian Legislative Council; and if he will make a statement. [9075]

Alistair Burt: We regard East Jerusalem as occupied territory. Its Palestinian population has rights under the Geneva conventions. Forcibly transferring people out of the city for political reasons—however much we may find their views abhorrent—as Israel appears to be trying to do in this case, is illegal. The EU has raised the matter with the Israeli Government and the British ambassador to Tel Aviv has raised this with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister—Danny Ayalon.

Somalia

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to the government of Mogadishu on *(a)* the influence of al-Qaeda in Somalia, *(b)* the spread of violence in East Africa and *(c)* Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden. [9733]

Alistair Burt: The Government continue to support the UN-led Djibouti Peace Process and the political reconciliation efforts of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). We do not provide direct budget support to the TFG. However we provide significant support to the African Union Mission in Somalia, which continues to play a leading role in maintaining sufficient security to allow the TFG to operate in Mogadishu. We are actively supporting the ongoing EU training mission to train Somali security forces.

Al-Shabaab, the main insurgent group in Somalia, has self-declared links to al-Qaeda and is responsible for numerous terrorist attacks in Somalia and has claimed responsibility for the 11 July 2010 bombings in Uganda. The UK talks regularly to governments in the region about countering Somali terrorism and reducing the threat it poses both in Somalia and the wider region.

Developing internal peace and stability in Somalia will take time given the lack of state structures, but in the long term it is the best way to deny terrorists the space they need to operate. We will continue to work with international partners and the TFG to prevent Somalia from being a safe haven for terrorists and to protect UK citizens from the terrorist threat. Over the course of 2010 we will look to increase out counter-terrorism support across the region.

On piracy, the Government regularly engage with the TFG to discuss piracy in the critical Gulf of Aden trade artery and wider Indian Ocean. This includes sponsoring TFG representation at meetings of the UK-chaired working group of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, discussing regional capability development.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made recent representations to *(a)* the UN and *(b)* the Government of Morocco on a referendum on the future Government of the Western Sahara. [9764]

Alistair Burt: Lord Howell discussed the question of a referendum on the future status of Western Sahara with Ambassador Christopher Ross, the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara on 22 June 2010. Following their meeting, Ambassador Ross also discussed the issue in more detail with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Industry

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent assessment is of the effects on the arts industry of the recession. [8789]

Mr Vaizey: Our Department monitors the impact of the recession across our sectors closely.

While some areas of the arts industry continue to perform well—the resilience of London theatre must be praised—other areas, such as private giving, have been negatively impacted.

We will continue to liaise with the sector and ensure the arts receive appropriate support during this difficult time.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7332]

John Penrose: Since 1997 this Department has spent the following resource costs on information and communication technology:

£

Financial year	*IT*	*Telecoms*
2009-10	3,092,657	429,012
2008-09	2,979,108	409,388
2007-08	2,753,954	491,270
2006-07	2,791,334	329,721
2005-06	2,648,343	526,620
2004-05	2,702,482	464,993
2003-04	2,813,851	455,710
2002-03	1,884,341	414,913
2001-02	1,447,426	427,356
2000-01	1,156,933	592,356

Financial year	*IT*	£ *Telecoms*
1999-2000	1,125,281	304,500
1998-97	1,107,277	383,766
1997-98	741,251	447,765

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff his Department employed on *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time contracts in each year since 1997. [8805]

John Penrose: The information relating to part-time and full-time staff is set out in the table.

As at 1 April	*(a) Full-time*	*(b) Part-time*	*Total*
2004	429	35	464
2005	480	45	525
2006	480	41	521
2007	494	33	527
2008	432	45	477
2009	418	49	467
2010	429	50	479

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is unable to provide data prior to 2004 as electronic records were only held from 2004 onwards.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7439]

John Penrose: All expenditure on entertainment is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2009-10	110,024
2008-09	84,544
2007-08	75,850
2006-07	72,819
2005-06	70,535
2004-05	97,803
2003-04	90,007
2002-03	50,948
2001-02	32,587
2000-01	51,667
1999-2000	33,318
1998-97	24,497
1997-98	15,269.81

Information on th. amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the *(a)* financial and *(b)* other effects on local radio stations of the switch off of analogue radio. [8788]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have no plans to switch off analogue radio as FM would be retained for small local commercial and community radio stations.

The Government have published a Digital Radio Action Plan which sets out a range of considerations before a decision on whether to set a radio switchover date can be made. This includes an assessment of the costs and benefits, to both the industry and consumer, of a digital radio switchover programme.

Libraries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the average number of people in each age group who use a local library each month. [8799]

Mr Vaizey: Information related to the percentage of the population in each age group who use libraries each year is collated in the DCMS Taking Part Survey. The survey does not record data on a month by month basis. The most recent published data which include a breakdown of age groups are presented in the table:

January to December 2009

Age group	*Percentage*
16-24	31.5
25-44	39.3
45-64	39.5
67-74	38.8
75+	33.4
Total	37.6

London 2012 Business Network

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to review the operation of the London 2012 Business Network. [8678]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The London 2012 Business Network enables a diverse range of businesses across the UK to access contract opportunities from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the support they need to compete for them. More than 6,500 contract opportunities have been made available through CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage system for London 2012 Games contracts; 48,000 businesses have received business support as a result of registering for the service; and this has been accompanied by an extensive programme of business engagement, informing over 10,000 businesses in a series of events across the UK of the opportunities and how to get involved. I support this valuable work but will continue to look at opportunities to ensure we maximize the benefit that businesses throughout the UK obtain from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Public Libraries: Expenditure

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the amount of public funding allocated to public libraries in *(a)* England and *(b)* Coventry in each year since 2005. [9407]

Mr Vaizey: The expenditure on library services in *(a)* England and *(b)* Coventry, can be seen in the table:

Net current expenditure[1] on library service by year

£000

	Coventry	*England*
2005-06	5,978	867,115
2006-07	5,762	889,558
2007-08	5,983	908,406
2008-09	5,427	928,143
2009-10	5,492	951,170

[1] Net current expenditure is defined here as the costs of staffing, heating, lighting and cleaning, together with expenditure on goods and services consumed within the year. This expenditure is offset by income from sales, fees and charges and other (non-grant) income.

Source:

This information was provided by the Communities and Local Government Revenue Account (RA) budget returns.

In addition, the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has used DCMS grant in aid to develop, share and promote best practice in libraries and has supported libraries to deliver projects such as Boys into Books and Book Ahead which are funded by the Department for Education. Public libraries have also benefited from lottery funding and private finance initiative credits which have been invested in individual projects.

Television: Licensing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the television licence fee. [8786]

Mr Vaizey: I am aware of representations on the licence fee made by members of the public in response to the Government publication 'The Coalition: our programme for government'. Furthermore, the Department regularly receives correspondence on the licence fee.

Theatres: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department has incurred on the provision of *(a)* theatre, *(b)* opera, *(c)* musical and *(d)* film for tickets to young people in the most recent period for which figures are available. [8779]

Mr Vaizey: My Department launched the A Night Less Ordinary scheme in February 2009 to provide free theatre tickets to young people under 26. The scheme initially cost £2.5 million, with a £100,000 evaluation running alongside.

In June 2010 we announced that the A Night Less Ordinary scheme was to be curtailed following a review of pilot schemes across government. We expect that £108,000 will be returned to the Department following curtailment.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Civil Partnerships

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to amend the law to allow religious music and readings at civil weddings and civil partnerships. [9416]

Lynne Featherstone: Civil partnership and civil marriage registrations are entirely secular in nature and prohibited from taking place on religious premises or containing any religious language, or religious music.

An amendment made during the passage of the Equality Act 2010 removed the express prohibition on civil partnership registrations taking place on religious premises. In response to this amendment, the Government committed to talking to those with a key interest in this issue about what the next stage should be for civil partnerships. This will include consideration of whether civil partnerships should be allowed to include religious readings, music and symbols. This commitment was made clear in the Government's published document 'Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality', published on 16 June 2010.

We will begin this exercise before the summer parliamentary recess.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in her Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8328]

Lynne Featherstone: Departments are unable to estimate the mileage travelled by each Minister in a Government car in May and June 2010 because this information is not recorded.

Domestic Violence

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations her Department has received on the level of the conviction rates in cases of domestic violence. [8547]

James Brokenshire: No recent representations have been received on this issue. The proportion of domestic violence prosecutions ending in conviction rose to 72% in 2009-10 up from 59.7% in 2005-06.

Domestic Violence: Refuges

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet organisations assisting women subject to domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds to discuss a permanent successor programme to follow her Department's pilot project on access to refuge accommodation; and if she will make a statement. [8310]

James Brokenshire: A Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009 and was scheduled to run to the end of August 2010. On 16 July, the Home Secretary announced an extension to the pilot until the end of March 2011 and a commitment to find a long-term funding solution to the issue. In identifying a long-term solution, we will consult with a range of organisations assisting this group of victims. The pilot is monitored on a monthly basis and a full evaluation will take place following completion of the pilot.

A number of representations have been received from MPs and charitable organisations regarding the pilot.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the outcomes to date of the pilot scheme implemented in December 2009 and extended until August 2010 to provide women not eligible for funding under the no public recourse rule with access to a safe place; [8425]

(2) what representations she has received from *(a)* charitable organisations and bodies and *(b)* local authorities on the pilot scheme implemented in December 2009 and extended until August 2010 to provide women not eligible for funding under the no public recourse rule with access to a safe place; [8426]

(3) what plans she has for the future of the scheme implemented in December 2009 to provide women not eligible under the no public recourse rule with access to a safe place. [10084]

James Brokenshire: A Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009 and was scheduled to run to the end of August 2010. On 16 July, the Home Secretary announced an extension to the pilot until the end of March 2011 and a commitment to find a long-term funding solution to the issue. The pilot is monitored on a monthly basis and a full evaluation will take place following completion of the pilot.

Firearms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to control the availability of guns in England. [8823]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office works closely with the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on gun crime issues. NABIS and ACPO monitor trends in the illegal use of firearms and work with local police forces to ensure that they have the intelligence and support they need to address gun crime in their area. NABIS is currently actively looking at the illegal use of shotguns, including how they move into the criminal market, how criminals use them and what can be done by law enforcement and Government to prevent this from happening.

There are a range of strict controls on the lawful possession of firearms, including a ban on handguns. Chief officers of police must be satisfied that an applicant has a good reason for wanting a particular firearm and is fit to be entrusted with it before issuing a certificate.

Forensic Science: DNA

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on the 2007 review of forensic practices involving low copy number DNA. [8087]

James Brokenshire: Since I took office, I have had no discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers about low copy number DNA.

Immigration Controls

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the terms of reference of her Department's consultation on the proposed limits on non-EU economic immigration; which groups and individuals she plans to consult; and whether the responses received will be made public. [4673]

Mrs May *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* On 28 June we launched a 12-week consultation with businesses and other interested sectors on our plans for implementing annual limits on non-EU economic migration. The consultation document is available on the UK Border Agency website. We will publish a response to the consultation, including a summary of the responses, in due course. At the same time, I commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee to advise the Government on the level at which the first annual limit should be set. The Migration Advisory Committee will also consult widely with business and other interested sectors.

Immigration: Departmental Co-ordination

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Education, *(b)* Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* Minister of State for Universities and Science on the planned cap on net immigration; and what the outcome of those discussions was. [7085]

Mrs May *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* I have conducted discussions with colleagues across Government regarding the Government's plans for limiting economic migration from outside the EEA. In particular I discussed the plans with ministerial colleagues at the recent Home Affairs Cabinet Committee. The outcome of those discussions was set out in the statement I made to the House on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 31-32 WS.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Ms Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to announce the outcome of her review of wheel clamping legislation. [5430]

Lynne Featherstone: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 385W.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions in statute law govern *(a)* wheel clamping and *(b)* other forms of vehicle immobilisation on (i) public and (ii) private land. [8705]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office is responsible for legislation on vehicle immobilisation activity on private land carried out by the private security industry, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Under the Private Security Industry Act 2001, vehicle immobilisers involved in immobilising, blocking in or towing away a vehicle with the intention of charging a release fee are required to hold a licence for the purpose issued by the Security Industry Authority. These provisions do not apply in Scotland, where vehicle immobilisation is effectively banned through a decision of the Scottish courts.

Paragraphs 3 and 3A of Schedule 2 to the 2001 Act set out the circumstances in which the licensing requirement applies to vehicle immobilisers. The provisions apply to operatives working in-house and on contract and include those responsible for taking payment of the release fee.

Sections 42 to 44 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 amended the 2001 Act to provide for a licensing requirement applying to vehicle immobilisation businesses. These provisions have not yet been implemented.

The legislation concerning vehicle immobilisation on public land is primarily the responsibility of the Department for Transport.

Offensive Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of knives on the streets. [8795]

James Brokenshire: This year, the Government are providing £4 million to local areas to support their work in tackling serious youth violence, including knife crime. We will also reduce bureaucracy to give police forces greater freedom to target their activities according to local need, including tackling knife crime, and we will work with Department of Health to ensure that hospitals will share non-confidential information with the police so they can target activity in gun and knife crime hot spots.

In addition, a Home Office Community Fund is providing 144 small local community-based organisations with £10,000 each this year to stop young people from starting to commit violence, or to help young people out of it. The activities being delivered focus on mentoring, outreach or education work with young people involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in gun/knife crime or gang activity, or support schemes for siblings, families and parents of young people involved in or at risk of involvement in gang or knife violence.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of businesses on controls on the sale of knives. [8806]

James Brokenshire: The Home Secretary has not yet had any discussions with representatives of retail businesses on the sale of knives. Home Office officials continue to work with local police and trading standards officers and with representatives of retail businesses to ensure that the law on the underage sale of knives is properly enforced.

Sexual Offences

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many British citizens who have committed sexual crimes against children overseas have been subjected to notification requirements under section 97 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003; [9012]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of British citizens convicted of offences related to sexual misdemeanours resident *(a)* overseas and *(b)* at an unknown location. [9013]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* This question cannot be answered readily and accurately from the Violent and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR). However, on the convicted person's return to the UK, a summons can be served upon them to present themselves at a magistrates court for a notification order to be applied. The court must be satisfied that a notifiable offence has been committed abroad and then a notification order will be made. This order then requires the individual to register on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register.

Sojourner Project

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will continue funding the Sojourner Project beyond September 2010. [8582]

James Brokenshire: A Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009 and was scheduled to run to the end of August 2010. On 16 July, the Home Secretary announced an extension to the pilot until the end of March 2011 and a commitment to find a long-term funding solution to the issue. The pilot is monitored on a monthly basis and a full evaluation will take place following completion of the pilot.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many additions to the sex offender register have been made other than by a recommendation at the time of sentencing in each year since 1997. [9582]

James Brokenshire: The notification requirements (also known as the sex offenders' register) of part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 are an automatic requirement for offenders who receive a conviction, caution or reprimand for certain sexual offences. There is no "recommendation" which leads to someone to becoming subject to the notification requirements.

The vast majority of offenders subject to notification requirements listed in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 will have been convicted of a relevant offence, either in the UK or abroad. There is a very small number who have been subject to a Risk of Sexual Harm Order (RoSHO) and breached the conditions. This would make them subject to notification requirements. We are unable to ascertain this figure from the Violent and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR).

Offenders who are made subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) or a Notification Order also become subject to notification requirements.

The number of SOPOs granted in England and Wales are as follows:

	Number
2005-06	937
2006-07	1,114

	Number
2007-08	1,440
2008-09	1,512

However, we are unable to ascertain from these figures, the number of offenders who became subject to SOPOs at the time of sentencing or at any other time.

The number of Notification Orders granted in England and Wales are as follows:

	Number
2004-05	22
2005-06	37
2006-07	62
2007-08	70
2008-09	72

Violent and Sex Offender Register: Offences Against Children

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether British citizens who have committed sexual crimes against children overseas are required to register on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register. [9011]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 19 July 2010]*: There is no requirement for British citizens who have been convicted of sexual crimes against children overseas to register on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register. However, on the convicted person's return to the UK, a summons can be served upon them to present themselves at a magistrates court for a notification order to be applied. The court must be satisfied that a notifiable offence has been committed abroad and then a notification order will be made. This order then requires the individual to register on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register.

HEALTH

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9252]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

However, all departmental contracts contain the following clause:

> "Where the Contractor enters into a sub-contract for the provision of any part of the Services, the Contractor shall ensure that a term is included in the sub-contract which requires the Contractor to pay all sums due to the sub-contractor within a specified period, not exceeding 30 days from the date of receipt of a valid invoice as defined by the terms of that sub-contract."

This clause is consistent with Office of Government Commerce best practice on payments to sub-contractors.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9052]

Mr Simon Burns: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. Departments do not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. There will have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates, which will be paid for by individual Departments. Civil servants attending the event will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by their Departments.

Dietary Supplements

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations he has made to the European Commission on the time taken by the European Food Safety Authority to process assessments of the health benefits claimed for food products and supplements; [9188]

(2) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of and *(b)* the costs to businesses of changes to the previously announced timescale for assessing the claims for the health benefits of food products and supplements by the European Food Safety Authority. [9189]

Anne Milton: The unprecedented number of health claims applications (more than 4,000) from businesses has meant that the timetable for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) completing its assessments and the development of the European community list (31 January 2010) has slipped.

The EFSA has decided to issue its opinions in batches, and has rejected requests from the Commission and others to limit publication to a single list: the first batch was published in October 2009 and the EFSA predicts that the final batch will be published in 2012. Several European Commissioners past and present have made clear that the Commission will authorise claims in batches, to give clarity to the market and ensure consumer protection, and that it is not willing to change its position. We have not therefore made representations to the European Commission on this matter but Food Standards Agency (FSA) officials are working to ensure that claims are authorised appropriately.

The FSA compiled a Regulatory Impact Assessment on the nutrition and health claims regulation in 2007. It has not carried out a formal assessment of whether any costs to business will result from changes to the planned timetable for assessing health claim applications. However, officials are willing to work closely with businesses and with enforcement bodies to minimise any negative impact on businesses.

Doctors and Nurses: Foreign Workers

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what standards his Department requires in respect of *(a)* competence in the English language and *(b)* professional standards from (i) doctors and (ii) nurses from other EU member states coming to work in the UK. [9364]

Anne Milton: 'HSC1999/137: Employment of European Economic Area (EEA) nationals ensuring language competency' makes it clear that employers are responsible for ensuring that the staff they employ have the necessary language and communication skills for the specific role to which they are being appointed. The precise requirements for different posts are a matter for employers as they are likely to vary depending on the specific role being undertaken.

All registered health care professionals from the EEA who are practicing their profession anywhere in the United Kingdom are required to observe the professional standards set by the relevant UK professional regulatory body. For doctors the professional regulatory body is the General Medical Council and for nurses it is the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Food Standards Agency

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means he plans to implement his proposal to abolish the Food Standards Agency. [8900]

Anne Milton: We have no plans to abolish the Food Standards Agency. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 20 July on the machinery of government changes.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were located at each office of the Food Standards Agency in each of the last five years. [9708]

Anne Milton: The average number of staff located at each office of the Food Standards Agency over the last five financial years was as follows:

				Number
	England	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*NI*
2009-10	625	75	35	38
2008-09	629	73	34	35
2007-08	684	68	27	34
2006-07	646	68	23	33
2005-06	596	73	23	29

General Practitioners

Mr Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 400W, on general practitioners, whether information on the number of GP appointments for patients with minor ailments is collected locally. [9789]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on consultations for minor ailments is held by general practitioner practices on their clinical systems. Whether or how this information is shared more widely is a matter for local decision.

Health Services: Standards

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken for benchmarking purposes into health service provision in other countries in the last 12 months. [9796]

Anne Milton: The Department performs international comparisons as part of its routine business and in policy development. In addition the Department commissions research using international comparisons from both inside and outside the Department, which is used to learn potential lessons from other countries. By comparing ourselves with other countries, we can identify particular areas where, internationally, we are underperforming. We can then examine how different countries have approached similar issues, learn from their solutions, and improve care in the national health service.

In the last 12 months the Department has worked with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on Health Care Quality Indicators, commissioned work from RAND and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on a variety of international comparisons projects, and contributed funds to the World Health Organisation for work on Health System Performance Assessment in the WHO European Region. An internal project is being carried out on International Cancer Benchmarking and the National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards, has undertaken a study of international variations in drug usage, and the causes for any such variation. His report will be published shortly.

Macfarlane Trust: Finance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for future funding of the Macfarlane Trust. [8669]

Anne Milton: There are currently no planned changes to the future funding of the Macfarlane Trust.

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken to assist veterans with combat stress which is diagnosed a decade or more after discharge from the armed forces; [9236]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of family breakdown arising from veterans' undiagnosed mental health problems. [9238]

Mr Burstow: No estimate of the cost of family breakdown arising from veterans' undiagnosed mental health problems has been made.

The Government are committed to providing effective, through-life, mental health services for our service and ex-service personnel. The Prime Minister has asked the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to conduct an independent study into the provision of Ministry of Defence and national health service support and services to the armed forces and ex-service personnel and to make recommendations for improvement, particularly in the area of mental health.

The Government have recently confirmed an additional £2 million to allow the Department of Health to work with strategic partners, including Combat Stress, to ensure that the best treatment and support services are available for veterans with mental health problems—including those who have left the armed forces several years ago—and to ensure a smooth transition to civilian life.

NHS: Abortion

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost of abortions carried out for non-EU nationals on the NHS in 2009. [8885]

Anne Milton: Abortions performed under Section 1(4) are rare in recent years and in each year since 2002 there have been less than 10[1] cases (between 0 and nine). The Department does not collect information on the cost of such emergency abortions.

NHS: Local Government

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 661-681, on NHS White Paper, (1) what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other resources will be provided to local authorities to assist them to agree local strategies with the NHS; [9294]

(2) over what timescale local authorities will be given control over local health improvement budgets; [9295]

(3) what estimate he has made of expenditure on local health improvement budgets for 2010-11; and what the forecast expenditure is for *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [9296]

Anne Milton: Later this year we will publish a White Paper setting out further details of the new Public Health Service (PHS) and our programme for public health. Primary care trusts responsibilities for local health improvement will transfer to local authorities, who will employ Directors of Public Health jointly appointed with the PHS. As set out in the draft Structural Reform Plan published on the Department's website, implementation of the PHS will begin in the financial year 2011-12 and it will be fully established by April 2012. In 2012-13 local ring-fenced public health budgets will be allocated in shadow form and real allocations will be issued for 2013-14.

The Department will create a ring-fenced public health budget and, within this, local Directors of Public Health will be responsible for health improvement funds allocated according to relative population health need.

The local ring-fenced public health budget will be based on current identifiable expenditure by the NHS and the Department. The allocation formula for those funds will include a new "health premium" designed to promote action to improve population-wide health and reduce health inequalities. Work is currently under way to determine baseline spending and the details of how local ring-fenced public health budgets will be determined. Further details will be made available in due course.

Patients' Rights: EU Action

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to participate in the European Project for Assessing Patients' Rights. [7553]

Mr Simon Burns: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Anne Milton to Annette Brooke:

The Government have no plans to participate in the European Project for Assessing Patients' Rights.

The project is linked to proposals for a European Union-wide constitution for patients and significant harmonisation of health systems and patient entitlements. We consider this to be contrary to member states' rights to organise their health systems under Article 168 of the Treaty.

Streptococcal Infections: Babies

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newborn babies were diagnosed with group B streptococcal infections in *(a)* London and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [9773]

Anne Milton: Data are not available by region as this is not a routine data output.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) receives reports of bloodstream infections associated with group B *streptococci*.

The HPA has published data for England for infants aged under 90 days, as detailed in the following table.

Number and rate (per 1,000 live births) of group B streptococcal bacteraemia reports in infants 0 to 90 days old: England, 2006-08

	All cases (0 to 90 days old)		*Early onset (0 to 6 days old)*		*Late onset (7 to 90 days old)*	
	Number	*Rate (95% confidence interval (CI))*	*Number*	*Rate (95% confidence interval (CI))*	*Number*	*Rate (95% confidence interval (CI))*
2006	366	0.58 (0.52-0.64)	221	0.35 (0.30-0.40)	145	0.23 (0.19-0.27)
2007	383	0.60 (0.54-0.67)	235	0.37 (0.32-0.42)	148	0.23 (0.20-0.27)
2008	439	0.67 (0.61-0.74)	262	0.40 (0.35-0.45)	177	0.27 (0.23-0.31)

Notes:

1. CI = Confidence Interval or 95% confident the true proportion lies within the range given.
2. Data for 2005 and 2006 are only available for infants, i.e. children aged under one year).

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[1] Totals are suppressed in line with Office for National Statistics guidance on the release of abortion statistics, 2005.

Sunbeds: Young People

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to bring into force each of the powers to protect young people from sunbed use available under the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010. [8875]

Anne Milton: The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 (the Act) comes into force on 8 April 2011. The purpose of the Act is to prevent people under the age of 18 from using sunbeds on commercial premises, by making it an offence for sunbed operators to allow people under the age of 18 access to sunbeds on their premises.

Regulation making powers (for example the one requiring that the use of sunbeds to be supervised) would begin as soon as possible after the Bill became an Act. Departmental officials are considering options to take forward the powers to regulate and may make recommendations to Ministers in due course. However they are giving priority to implementing the main provisions of the Act (namely those that prohibit sunbed operators from allowing those under the age of 18 from using their sunbeds). However, this parliamentary question is an illustration of the continuing interest there is in this topic within Parliament and beyond.

We are currently considering the regulation making powers contained in the Act.

Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the projected deficit of NHS Sutton and Merton is for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14; when he expects to receive the full strategic business case for upgrades to Nelson Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [10132]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has collected financial plans from national health service organisations for 2010-11 and 2011-12. Sutton and Merton primary care trust has planned to break even in 2011-12. The Department does not hold projected figures for 2012-13 or 2013-14.

The Department has not received a business case for the Nelson hospital. Business cases must first be assessed by the relevant strategic health authority prior to being submitted to the Department.

Swine Flu: Death

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who died as a result of *(a)* misdiagnosis of bacteriological infections as swine flu and *(b)* not being prescribed antibiotics during the swine flu pandemic. [9447]

Anne Milton: We do not hold estimates of the data that have been requested and we do not hold baseline data from which bacteriological deaths can be estimated.

It is well accepted that there are no symptoms or signs that are considered so characteristic of influenza that it makes the diagnosis completely certain. In addition, the signs and symptoms associated with influenza also apply to a host of other viral and bacterial conditions. This presents major challenges for clinicians during seasonal influenza.

During the pandemic, in common with normal seasonal flu, data were collected on the proportion of subsets of the population presenting with a flu-like illness that were actually laboratory confirmed. Like seasonal influenza, this ranged from 10-60%, depending on the age of the patient and the point in the pandemic that they presented.

Swine Flu: Disease Control

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when remaining stocks of swine influenza *(a)* antivirals and *(b)* vaccines will pass their use-by dates; [9139]

(2) what proportion of swine influenza *(a)* antivirals and *(b)* vaccines were used; and what the estimated value is of the unused medicines in each case; [9140]

(3) how much was spent on *(a)* antivirals and *(b)* vaccines for the H1N1 virus. [9141]

Anne Milton: The expiry dates of the remaining stocks of antivirals depend on their original purchase dates. The initial Tamiflu procurement completed in 2006 and the procurement in 2008-09 had a five-year shelf life. Tamiflu stock bought since July 2009 has a seven-year shelf life. The Relenza stocks procured in 2008-09 had a seven-year shelf life although we are discussing shelf life extensions with the supplier. The remaining stocks of vaccines have shelf lives through to October 2011.

The antiviral stock usage for England constituted approximately 6% of the amount procured. The usage of antivirals in England includes stock issued through the National Pandemic Flu Service, general practitioners and other avenues. The vaccine stock usage for England constituted approximately 45% of the amount procured. The usage of vaccines in England includes all the stock sent out to the national health service and a donation to the World Health Organisation.

The values of the unused antivirals and vaccines cannot be disclosed as this information is commercial in confidence.

The spend on the response to the pandemic, as set out in the independent review of the UK response to the 2009 influenza pandemic, is £587 million. This publication can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/ccs/news/100701-flu-pandemic-review.aspx

The spend on response includes antivirals consumed, vaccine and associated administration costs, consumables used, the operating costs for systems and infrastructure including the National Pandemic Flu Service, additional Health Protection Agency costs and extra costs required for swine flu related communications.

The spend on preparedness was £655 million. This includes antivirals, antibiotics and consumables which continue to be held for future use, the development of the systems and infrastructure and the advance purchase agreements for vaccines signed in 2007.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the number of lives saved as a result of the vaccination programme against influenza A subtype H1N1; and if he will make a statement. [9138]

Anne Milton: In her independent review of the 2009 influenza pandemic, Dame Deirdre Hine noted that this pandemic

> "was the first where the United Kingdom had a specific vaccine available for use while the virus was still causing disease in the nation".

In addition, at the time when decisions about the procurement of pandemic vaccine were required she noted that

> "uncertainty remained about all aspects of the influenza outbreak, and although data was being collected and analysed, there was little confidence that the severity or infectivity could be predicted".

The total number of deaths from influenza A (H1N1) in England from the start of the pandemic in England to 18 March 2010 was reported in the Hine report as 342.

A study published by the Health Protection Agency, Imperial College London and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine following the end of the second epidemic wave of influenza A (H1N1) has estimated that the influenza A (H1N1) vaccination programme may have prevented between about 230,000 and 710,000 cases and between 26 and 67 deaths from influenza A (H1N1) in England (there are no similar estimates for the United Kingdom). These estimates are based upon a number of assumptions about the vaccination programme and the performance of the vaccine, including that the uptake of vaccine in clinical risk groups would reach 70%, by early November 2009. In fact, the uptake of vaccine in the clinical risk groups was about 30 per cent, by late December 2009. Therefore, the number of cases and deaths prevented may be of a lower range than these estimates. A published Canadian study of the influenza A (H1N1) vaccination programme in Ontario suggested that vaccinating 30% of the population of that province would prevent about 35 deaths.

The study published by the Health Protection Agency, Imperial College London and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine showed that the vaccination strategy that was employed in practice would save most lives.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the efficacy of the influenza A subtype H1N1 vaccine *(a)* as a prophylactic and *(b)* in reducing the symptoms of swine influenza. [9142]

Anne Milton: Unpublished data by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) suggest that in England the influenza A (H1N1) vaccination is likely to have been at least as effective as the usual seasonal influenza vaccinations when the vaccines have been well matched to the circulating influenza strains (around 70% effective at preventing influenza). As with seasonal influenza vaccines, influenza A (H1N1) vaccine is likely to be less effective in older people.

The HPA is seeking to publish a detailed analysis of these data in the peer-reviewed scientific literature.

Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine effectiveness is being assessed in terms of influenza that may have been prevented not by the reduction in severity of symptoms of influenza. However, as well as preventing influenza, an effective vaccine is likely to reduce the symptoms of influenza for those that develop the disease.

Wharfedale Hospital

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of Wharfedale hospital. [9742]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to ensure that the Wharfedale hospital provides modern, personalised, and responsive patient care of a consistently high quality that is equally accessible to all patients.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9043]

Robert Neill: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. We do not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. There will have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates, which will be paid for by Communities and Local Government (CLG). Civil servants attending the event will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by CLG.

Travel and subsistence is approved locally in accordance with departmental procedures and guidance and costs have to be met from within agreed budgets for general administrative expenditure. Unfortunately there would be a disproportionate cost in obtaining detailed information from local line managers.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5910]

Robert Neill: All public bodies are required to be compliant with equality legislation and so resource is allocated to ensure the Department meets its statutory obligations.

In 2008-09 the budget for promoting equality and diversity was £69,000. For the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 the allocated budget was £72,000.

The projected costs for the three staff working on work force equalities totals £126,000 for the financial year 2010-11. As a consequence of staff turnover and restructuring of the function it has not been possible to calculate the staff costs for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Departmental Legislation

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 375W, on the Decentralisation and Localism Bill, if he will estimate the number of his Department's officials who have been assigned to work on the Decentralisation and Localisation Bill. [9512]

Greg Clark: This is a major piece of legislation spanning many housing, planning and local government issues. A wide range of officials from across the Department are contributing to preparing for the Bill.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff worked in his Department's ministerial support office on *(a)* 1 May 2010 and *(b)* 1 July 2010. [6155]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* The number of staff in ministerial private offices on *(a)* 1 May 2010 was 32. On *(b)* 1 July 2010 the number was 30. The latter figure is unchanged from the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 8 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 127-28 W. This is fewer than the arrangements inherited from the last Government.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5539]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 8 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 128W.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8325]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to reduce the cost of running his Department since his appointment. [9276]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Nottingham East (Chris Leslie) on 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-24W, which sets out the savings being delivered by my Department through reducing waste.

Running costs savings are being delivered through implementation of spending controls, including:

A freeze on new advertising, marketing, consultancy and research spend.

A freeze on civil service recruitment and increased controls on temporary and interim staff.

Implementation of the civil service pay freeze as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 22 June.

A freeze on all new ICT spend above £1 million.

My Department is also renegotiating core contracts, and is centralising procurement for commodity goods and services. Furthermore, the Department is implementing extended controls on new property lease and lease extensions.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9892]

Robert Neill: Details of the remuneration paid to all employees in Communities and Local Government is set out in 'Section 4: Remuneration Report', of the Department's Resource Accounts published on 9 July 2010:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/clgresourceaccounts0910

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6432]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 3 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 51-52W. The National School of Government is funded through its Core Learning Programme to deliver induction and other training to Ministers, and there is no separate charge to Departments.

In addition, the Department's Communications Directorate has also provided a training session. There was no charge to the Department.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7419]

Robert Neill: The following table shows total spend on travel for the last two financial years for *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies. Details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

	2008-09	£ 2009-10
Communities and Local Government	2,714,550	2,960,970
Government Office Network	1,231,567	1,575,323
Planning Inspectorate	2,521,743	2,325,674
Fire Service College	198,472	318,377
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	43,880	43,880
Housing and Communities Agency	1,563,079	916,071
Ordnance Survey	1,247,937	1,211,097
FireBuy	66,749	87,076
Audit Commission	5,231,402	4,119,205
LEASE	2,525	14,897
Valuation Tribunal Service	164,230	214,455
Tenant Service Authority	139,344	988,969
Independent Housing Ombudsman	44,011	37,653
Standards Board	742,599	620,501
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	67,912	18,099
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	26,323	26,323
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	134,655	110,106
Total	16,140,978	15,588,676

Note:

These figures include expenditure on travel claimed back through staff travel and subsistence.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6870]

Robert Neill: Details of the cost of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations are not held centrally and could only be supplied at disproportionate cost. The Department does not hold central records for regulations arising from EU obligations nor does it exist separately as part of a category or coding within either the Department's finance system.

Faiths Consultative Council

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members are of the Faiths Consultative Council; and when it last met. [5595]

Andrew Stunell: The full Council last met on 12 January 2010, however a further two special meetings of the Council were convened on 3 March and 18 March 2010 to discuss specific topics. At that time the membership comprised:

Al - Khoei Foundation
Bahá'is Community of the United Kingdom
Board of Deputies of British Jews
British Muslim Forum
British Sikh Consultative Forum
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Church of England
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Evangelical Alliance, UK
Faith Based Regeneration Network UK
Free Churches Group, Churches Together in England
Hindu Council UK
Hindu Forum of Britain
Interfaith Council, Wales
Inter Faith Network for the UK
Jain Samaj Europe
Methodist Church
Minority Ethnic Christian Affairs, Churches Together in England
Muslim Council of Britain
Network of Buddhist Organisations
Network of Sikh Organisations
Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum
Office of the Chief Rabbi
Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe.

Fire Services

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to end *(a)* the FiReControl project and *(b)* the regionalisation of the fire service. [9945]

Robert Neill: The FiReControl project needs to be delivered to time, cost and quality. The main contractor EADS has given a clear public commitment on delivery and these contractual commitments must now be met.

I need to be satisfied that the three delivery basics are achievable. FiReControl, as with all Government projects, is also being reviewed to ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

The Government are committed to ensuring value for money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been incurred in cancellation changes by his Department in respect of each of the contracts awarded under the FiReControl project to date. [9946]

Robert Neill: My Department has not incurred any cancellation costs in respect of contracts awarded under the FiReControl project.

Green Belt

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to protect the Green Belt in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Coventry. [9572]

Robert Neill: Planning is a devolved matter, so this answer relates only to England. In the coalition agreement we undertook to maintain the green belt. One major step has already been taken—we have just revoked regional strategies, thus removing regional housing targets and the pressure they created to release green belt land for development. That means the protection of particular green belts is in the hands of local communities. Local planning authorities—including those around Coventry—

are free to exercise the powers to protect green belt currently set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, "Green Belts", including the presumption against inappropriate development on green belt land.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households with children were directed into private sector accommodation under schemes to prevent homelessness in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [10026]

Grant Shapps: The information required is not held centrally.

Although the Department collects data on the number of preventions made in the form of private sector accommodation, these figures are not collected broken down by household type.

The Department began collecting homelessness prevention and relief data from local authorities in the April to June quarter 2008. Official statistics on homelessness prevention and relief in 2008-09 were published in November 2009 and designated as 'experimental statistics' in recognition that the preventions data is a new series of statistic still undergoing evaluation and the quality of the figures are likely to improve over time.

The release can be found in the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessprevention200809

The total number of households (with or without children) whose homelessness was prevented or relieved by obtaining private rented sector accommodation was 37,820 in 2008-09.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much has been paid in homelessness grants *(a)* to local authorities and *(b)* to the voluntary sector in each year to date; [10188]

(2) with reference to the March 2010 Budget, whether homelessness grants are paid through area-based grants; [10189]

(3) what mechanism is used to calculate the homelessness grant for each local authority. [10190]

Grant Shapps: The table shows total allocations of homelessness grant to local authorities and the voluntary sector from 2002-03 to 2009-10.

Homelessness grant is not paid through area-based grant. Allocations of homelessness grant consist of proportionate distribution of the grant across authorities based on levels of rough sleeping, temporary accommodation and B&B usage, along with funding to support particular delivery blockages or weaknesses.

£ million

	LAs	*Voluntary organisations*	*Total*
2002-03	48.2	25	73.2
2003-04	50.6	20.3	70.9
2004-05	45.4	14.8	60.2
2005-06	44.7	15	59.7
2006-07	49.5	18	67.5
2007-08	51	19.5	70.5
2008-09	59.5	17.1	76.5
2009-10	59.51	18.4	77.9

Housing: Construction

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the effects on employment in the construction sector in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 of the projected levels of housebuilding in those fiscal years. [8651]

Andrew Stunell: The Department does not make estimates of future employment in the construction sector. Employment in the construction sector declined during the recession; ONS Labour Market Statistics show 2.31 million workforce jobs in the UK construction sector in the March quarter of 2008; in the March quarter of 2010 workforce jobs stood at 2.05 million (seasonally adjusted). Over the same period, housing output declined; quarterly housing completions stood at 40,620 in the March quarter of 2008 and were 26,090 in the same quarter of 2010 (seasonally adjusted) according to CLG's House Building Statistics.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the letters sent by the then Minister for Housing and Planning to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee in summer 2009 detailing plans and funding for the Housing Pledge contained in Building Britain's Future. [9511]

Grant Shapps: A letter of 17 July 2009 from the then Minister for Housing and Planning about funding the previous Administration's Housing Pledge was published in the Communities and Local Government Committee's Third Report of Session 2009-10 published on its website on 5 March

http://www.publications.parliament.uk

in the list of written evidence (first item, 'Ev 35').

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives his Department will provide to encourage local authorities to increase the stock of new build housing. [9574]

Grant Shapps: We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The coalition agreement set out our clear intention to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including new homes and business.

The new incentives scheme will therefore directly reward local authorities that choose to take action to deliver housing growth. We will consult later this year.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the exemption of new housing developments for older people from *(a)* section 106 requirements and *(b)* other planning requirements applied to housing developments. [10055]

Robert Neill: The current policy on section 106 requirements is set out in Circular 5/05. The Circular is currently under review. The current policy on housing development is set out in Planning Police Statement 3 (Housing).

In the coalition agreement the Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will be making an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

Housing: Empty Property

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty residential properties there were in Peterborough City Council area on 1 April in each year since 2006; and if he will make a statement. [10134]

Robert Neill: The numbers of empty domestic dwellings in the Peterborough city council area as at the beginning of October in each year since 2006 are shown in the following table. The data include both short-term and long-term empty dwellings.

Empty domestic dwellings

	Number
2006	2,125
2007	2,179
2008	2,517
2009	2,590

The data are taken from the Council Tax Base (CTB) and CTB(Supplementary) forms completed annually in October by all billing authorities in England and returned to Communities and Local Government.

Housing: Regeneration

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to continue with the housing regeneration scheme in the Bransholme North area of Kingston upon Hull North constituency. [7981]

Andrew Stunell: I assume the hon. Member is referring to the housing stock transfer proposal at the North Bransholme Estate, Hull to the Riverside Housing Group.

My predecessor agreed in a ministerial statement on 16 December that the Bransholme North housing stock transfer proposal should proceed to consultation with tenants. Tenants have since voted in support of the proposal. The Homes and Communities Agency, which has responsibility for the delivery of the Housing Transfer programme, will scrutinise all aspects of the transfer application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State on the application.

Local Government Finance: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the likely in-year change to his Department's capital allocation to each local authority in the West Midlands in *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash terms in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [8412]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely change in his Department's capital allocation to each local authority in the West Midlands for 2010-11 in *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash terms; and if he will make a statement. [10083]

Robert Neill: Tackling the UK's record deficit is the Government's top priority, and we believe that it is right that local authorities make a contribution to the efficiency savings of £6.2 billion which we have announced for 2010-11. A written statement on Local Government Savings by the Secretary of State and further information sent to local authorities was placed in the Library of the House on 10 June 2010.

These savings included reductions to two capital programmes proposed to be paid to local authorities in 2010-11: Housing Market Renewal was reduced by £50 million, and Gypsy Site Grant by £30 million. The Housing Market Renewal allocations initially announced in December 2009 will be reduced; the mechanism by which this reduction is achieved has been subject to consultation and individual allocations for 2010-11 will be confirmed shortly. My Department had intended to make allocations for Gypsy Site Grant through a bidding process; this process and all remaining grant have now been cancelled.

Local Government Services

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his definition is of an essential frontline service for local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [9006]

Andrew Stunell: This is for local authorities to define. Local authorities, engaging their communities, must determine their local priorities and define the services needed to deliver them.

Minerals

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what mechanism local authorities may review target figures for the extraction of minerals. [9074]

Robert Neill: Mineral planning authorities are required to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregate minerals to support economic growth. It is up to the local discretion of the mineral planning authority to review targets for the extraction of minerals as part of any review of their development plan documents, and when such a review may take place. Our statement to accompany the revocation of regional strategies indicated that minerals planning authorities should do so within the longstanding arrangements for minerals planning.

They can choose to use alternative figures for their planning purposes if they have new or different information, and a robust evidence base.

It is up to the local discretion of the mineral planning authority to decide the most appropriate mechanism to review their targets, in light of the revocation of the regional strategies.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which housing associations have participated in the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [9611]

Grant Shapps: On 16 March 2010 the Homes and Communities Agency published a list of the 153 syndicated housing associations participating in the Mortgage Rescue Scheme network. The list, which includes the 22 syndication agents, is contained within the following press release link:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/hca-housing-associations-deliver-mortgage-rescue

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the visitors to mortgagehelp.direct.gov.uk used the "Create your action plan" tool in the latest period for which figures are available. [9613]

Grant Shapps: From 8 October 2009 to 15 July 2010 there were 59,976 action plans generated on the

http://mortgagehelp.direct.gov.uk

website.

The latest monthly period for which figures are available is June 2010, during which 1,623 action plans were generated.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 497W, on mortgages: government assistance, how many absolute unique visitors from each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area there have been to mortgagehelp.direct.gov.uk (i) since 7 September 2009, (ii) in the last six months and (iii) in the last three months. [9621]

Grant Shapps: The Department does not hold this information. The breakdowns of absolute unique visitors provided to the Department through Google Analytics use geographical definitions not consistent with either English regions or local authorities.

Analysis conducted in January 2010, looking only at target 'hotspot' areas showed the following visitor numbers for areas broadly analogous to local authority areas (based on the postcode of the visitor's Internet Protocol address):

Visitor numbers (Google analytics) by hotspot

	September 6 - October 5	*October 6 - November 12*	*November 12 - December 10*	*December 11 - January 11*
Barking and Dagenham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Birmingham	540	1393	996	1017
Bolton	37	83	92	51
Cannock Chase	17	19	9	12
Corby	3	10	6	2
Halton	22	41	17	20
Kingston on Hull	58	227	106	113
Knowsley	2	7	2	7
Liverpool	85	208	152	133
Manchester	842	1869	1557	1249
Newham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northampton	36	26	45	57
Nottingham	77	161	120	99
Reading	49	122	95	89
Redditch	23	28	24	35
Salford	110	198	165	122
Sandwell	5	16	17	27
Sunderland	29	45	28	34
Swindon	33	78	45	61
Walsall	26	79	53	45
Wigan	29	101	49	47
Wolverhampton	35	92	59	54

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has made an estimate of the effect of the changes proposed to the level of assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in the June 2010 Budget on the number of home repossessions in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012. [9746]

Grant Shapps: The Department of Work and Pensions leads on analysis of Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) and is working to develop estimates on the potential impact of changes in SMI on repossessions.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of erased back-dated business rates which will relate to port companies. [9158]

Robert Neill: My Department's assessment of informal local authority estimates, received between May and June of 2010, indicate that port-based properties have a cumulative backdated liability in the region of £70 million.

This is an estimate based on a snap shot of information taken at varying times between authorities. It is important to note that this estimate could change, as it is possible that alterations will be made to the assessments of properties within ports, for example, following an appeal.

On 22 June we announced our intention to cancel certain backdated business rates liabilities for those properties, including some in ports, that had incurred a significant and unexpected backdated rates bill from 2008 as a result of being split from another property. In the meantime a freeze on the collection and payment of such backdated bills is in place.

Regional Development Agencies

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to complete his review of successor arrangements to regional development agencies; and if he will make a statement. [9737]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Brighton, Kemptown (Simon Kirby) on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 632W.

Transport: Finance

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has carried out an assessment of the potential effect of the operation of *(a)* Articles 93 and 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and *(b)* EU Regulation 1370/2007 on local authority grant aid awards to subsidised transport services. [8821]

Mrs Villiers: I have been asked to reply.

Articles 93 and 107 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union, relating to state aid in the field of transport, were carried over from the former treaty and are unchanged (with the exception of an additional reference to measures in support of remote and detached parts of certain member states). They have not been subject to any recent assessment by the Department for Transport. A recent assessment of the impact of Regulation 1370/2007 on bus and rail services was carried out by the Department in the context of a questionnaire issued to member states in March this year on behalf of the European Commission, asking for information on the implementation of the regulation. I am placing a copy of the Department's response in the Library of the House.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the level of unmet need for Travellers' sites in the Bristol area; and whether the Government plans to set targets for the provision of such sites. [8658]

Andrew Stunell: Local councils are best placed to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. The abolition of Regional Strategies means that local authorities will be responsible for determining the right level of site provision, reflecting local need and historic demand, and for bringing forward land in Development Plan Documents. The West of England local authorities published a Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment in October 2007. If the West of England local authorities decide to review the levels of provision in their area the 2007 assessment will form a good starting point. The Government will review relevant regulations and guidance in due course.

Yorkshire Dales National Park: Public Consultation

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on involvement of members of the public in planning decisions made in respect of the Yorkshire Dales national park; and if he will make a statement. [9640]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State has received no recent representations on involvement of members of the public in planning decisions made in respect of the Yorkshire Dales national park.

JUSTICE

Hillsborough Disaster

17. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to release documents held by his Department in relation to the Hillsborough disaster. [9429]

Mr Djanogly: The Hillsborough Independent Panel is overseeing the process for maximum public disclosure of documents relating to the Hillsborough stadium disaster. Ministry of Justice documents will be provided to the panel as part of this process.

Legal Aid: Clinical Negligence Cases

18. **Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much legal aid funding was spent on clinical negligence cases in the last three years. [9430]

Mr Djanogly: Net cash expenditure on legal aid clinical negligence cases was £26 million in 2006-07, £28 million in 2007-08 and £28 million in 2008-09. This includes funding for cases that have yet to conclude. In those cases where the claim succeeds, the legal costs should be met by the defendant so that the actual cost to the legal aid fund each year is considerably less than the cash expenditure.

Magistrates Courts

19. **Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on his review of magistrates courts. [9431]

Mr Djanogly: We are four weeks into a 12-week public consultation process. As such, the responses to each of the 16 consultation papers have not yet been collated and analysed. This will happen once the consultation closes on 15 September.

However, I can confirm that as of 15 June, there had been 20 letters to Ministers in this Department from hon. Members and Welsh Assembly Members regarding the proposals. Two adjournment debates on the consultations have also been held.

Prison Officers: Pay and Pensions

20. **Jim McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Prison Officers Association on pay and pensions of prison officers. [9432]

Mr Blunt: None. Pay for prison officers falls within the remit of the Prison Service Pay Review Body and pension issues are discussed centrally on a collective basis by the Cabinet Office with the Council of Civil Service Unions. Regular meetings are held by the National Offender Management Service with the Prison Officers' Association on a range of other issues.

Court Cases: Adjournment

21. **Mr Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of cases in magistrates and Crown courts were subject to an adjournment in the latest period for which figures are available. [9434]

Mr Djanogly: In March 2010, an estimated 60% of all defendants dealt with in criminal proceedings in the magistrates courts were subject to one or more adjournments. In the first quarter of 2010, around 70% of all cases dealt with in the Crown court were subject to one or more adjournments. Courts will adjourn a case for a range of reasons in particular for trial or sentence.

My hon. Friend's question highlights an important point, namely that an efficient court system is more than a question of the number of courts it is also an issue of effective procedure and I can advise my hon. Friend that we are looking at procedure—including the timing of pleas and the related payment of legal aid and the question of which court hears the case with the associated delay possibilities.

Asylum

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many asylum claimants who had been represented by Refugee and Migrant Justice as at 30 June 2010 have been allocated to alternative legal representatives since that date. [10032]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission has agreed a plan of action with BDO, the administrator. Accurate up to date figures will be provided by BDO but are not available at this time. Good progress is being made with regard to alternative providers indicating that they can take cases.

Convictions: Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a criminal conviction for offences under section 53 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and how many such convictions there have been in 2010 to date. [8665]

Mr Blunt: In England and Wales in 2008 (the latest year for which data are available) there were no convictions for offences under section 53 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010. Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in autumn of 2011.

Convictions: Fly-tipping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* convicted of offences related to fly-tipping in each London borough since 1997. [8794]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of people arrested for fly-tipping is not held centrally. Data held by the Home Office cover arrests for notifiable offences only and offences relating to fly-tipping under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 sections 33(6), 33(8), 33(9) and 34 cannot be separately identified. Offences under Section 59 of Environmental Protection Act 1990 are not notifiable offences and do not form a part of the arrests collection.

The number of persons convicted of offences related to fly-tipping and waste duty of care offences under sections 33(6), 33(8), 33(9), 34 and 59 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in the Metropolitan and City of London Police Force Area for the years 1997 to 2008 is shown in the following table. Information held centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by borough of London area, therefore Metropolitan and City of London Police Force Area data has been provided in lieu. Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

In addition the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs publishes data on Fly-tipping submitted by local authorities to the National Fly-tipping Database (Flycapture). This information, published on a financial year basis from 2004-05 onwards, includes data relating to prosecutions for Fly-tipping and waste duty of care offences and is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Persons found guilty at all courts for 'fly-tipping'[1], London[2] 1997 to 2007[3,4]

	Number
1997	38
1998	38
1999	54
2000	72
2001	107
2002	161
2003	202
2004	301
2005	288
2006	473
2007	336

Persons found guilty at all courts for 'fly-tipping'[1], London[2] 1997 to 2007[3, 4]

	Number
2008	177

[1] Covers offences under sections 33(6),33(8),33(9),34 and 59 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

[2] Includes the Metropolitan Police and City of London police force areas.

[3] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Courts

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* Crown and *(b)* magistrates courts are served by which prisons. [8614]

Mr Blunt: Details of the courts served by which prisons are held centrally and to provide this information on every prison that serves the 91 Crown courts and the 330 magistrates courts could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the following table shows the courts served by certain prisons in the hon. Member's constituency.

Prisons that serve courts in West Yorkshire (dependant on type of prisoner)

Courts in West Yorkshire	*Adults (males)*	*Young adult (males) aged 18 and 21*	*Juvenile (males)*	*All females (include adults, young adults or juveniles)*
Bingley Magistrates Court	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall
Bradford Magistrates Court	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall
Bradford Crown Court	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall
Dewsbury Magistrates Court	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall
Halifax MC	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall
Huddersfield Magistrates Court	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall
Leeds Magistrates Court	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall
Leeds Crown Court	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall,
Pontefract Magistrates Court	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall Court'
Wakefield Magistrates Court	Sent to HMP Leeds	Sent to HMP Doncaster	Sent to HMYOI Wetherby	Sent to HMYOI New Hall

Courts: Fines

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was outstanding in unpaid fines and other financial penalties to the courts at the end of each of the last five years. [8604]

Mr Djanogly: The amount of financial penalties outstanding at the end of each of the last five years is tabled as follows:

	£
2005-06	474,292,175
2006-07	486,597,240
2007-08	500,630,569
2008-09	544,890,624
2009-10	588,475,303

The outstanding balance has risen through the application of a strict policy that only allows fines to be written off in certain circumstances. The outstanding balance includes fines imposed a number of years ago during the period when fines could not be cancelled (2004-06) and fines which are being paid by instalments.

The national payment rate for financial penalties at the end of the 2008-09 financial year was 85% and 71% excluding the value of administrative cancellations.

HMCS is currently implementing the 'Criminal Compliance and Enforcement Services—A Blueprint for 2008 to 2012' which was launched in July 2008 and is currently being implemented by all of the HMCS regions. The blueprint sets out HMCS's strategic objective which is for a cheaper, faster and more proportionate system that primarily focuses on 'first time' compliance while continuing to apply the principles of rigorous enforcement to the hard core of defaulters.

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of fines and other financial penalties uncollected by Her Majesty's Court Service. [8605]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts Service has in place a strategy to increase the success of compliance with court orders particularly with regard to financial penalties—the Criminal Compliance and Enforcement Services Blueprint. This was launched in July 2008 and is being implemented across HMCS. The blueprint sets out HMCS's strategic objective for enforcement which is for a cheaper, faster and more proportionate system that primarily focuses on 'first time' compliance while continuing to apply the principles of rigorous enforcement to the hard core of defaulters. The blueprint implementation ensures greater use of the sanctions available under the Courts Act 2003 and extended methods of payment.

Performance in relation to the collection of financial penalties is being closely monitored across all areas of

HMCS and any area where performance is below target is being challenged by a central team who will assist the area in identifying areas for improvement and set targets for increased collection.

In the 2009-10 financial year HMCS collected £12.5 million (5%) more cash against financial penalties than in the 2008-09 year.

Courts: Video Equipment

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which *(a)* Crown and *(b)* magistrates courts have video links to which prisons; [8615]

(2) what the monetary cost to his department was the installation of video link equipment in each *(a)* Crown court, *(b)* magistrates court and *(c)* prison in which such equipment has been installed; and if he will make a statement. [8616]

Mr Blunt: At present, there are 30 Crown courts and 155 magistrates courts that have video links. Any of these courts can connect via video link with any prisons that also have this system installed. Details of all the courts and prisons equipped with video link are shown in the following lists.

The Ministry of Justice funds the video conferencing service. I will write to the hon. Member to provide details of the cost to the Department for installing the video link equipment.

Magistrates courts with video link

Aberystwyth
Accrington
Barnsley
Barnstaple
Barrow-in-Furness
Basildon
Basingstoke
Bedford
Bedlington
Beverley
Birkenhead
Birmingham
Birmingham Youth
Blackpool
Bodmin
Bootle/S. Sefton
Bootle/S. Sefton Youth
Bournemouth
Bradford
Brecon
Brent
Bridgend
Brighton
Bristol
Bromley
Caerphilly
Camberwell Green
Cambridge
Cannock
Cardiff
Carlisle
Chatham
Chester
Chesterfield
City of London
Coventry
Croydon
Cwmbran
Derby
Doncaster
Dudley
Ealing
Enfield
Exeter
Folkestone
Gateshead
Grantham
Great Yarmouth
Greenwich
Grimsby
Guildford
Halifax
Haringey
Harlow
Harrogate
Hartlepool
Harwich
Hastings
Haverfordwest
Haywards Heath
Hemel Hempstead
Hereford
Highbury Corner
Hillingdon/Uxbridge
Horseferry Road
Huddersfield
Hull
Ipswich
Leamington Spa
Leeds
Leicester
Lincoln
Liverpool
Liverpool Youth
Llandrindod Wells
Llandudno
Llanelli
Loughborough
Luton
Maidstone
Manchester
Manchester Crown
Manchester Youth
Mansfield
Merthyr Tydfil
Middlesbrough (Teesside)
Milton Keynes
Neath
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newport (Gwent)
Newport, Isle of Wight

Newton Aycliffe
North Shields
Northampton
Norwich
Nottingham
Nuneaton
Oxford
Peterborough
Peterlee
Plymouth
Poole
Portsmouth
Prestatyn
Preston
Reading
Redbridge
Redhill
St Albans
St Helens
Scunthorpe
Sheffield
Shrewsbury
Skegness
Slough
Solihull
South Shields
South Western
Southampton
Southend
Staines
Stevenage
Stoke
Stratford/Newham
Stroud
Sudbury
Sunderland
Sutton Coldfield
Swansea
Swindon
Tameside/Ashton
Tamworth
Taunton
Telford
Thames
Torquay
Tower Bridge
Truro
Wakefield
Walsall
Waltham Forest
Warley
Warrington
Wellingborough
West London
Weymouth
Wigan
Wimbledon
Witham
Wolverhampton
Worcester
Workington
Worthing
Wrexham
York

Crown courts with video link

Birmingham
Blackfriars
Bradford
Bristol
Cardiff
Carlisle
Central Criminal
Inner London
Kingston
Leeds
Leicester
Liverpool
Luton
Maidstone
Manchester
Newcastle
Nottingham
Portsmouth
Preston
Reading
Sheffield
Snaresbrook
Southampton
Southwark
St Albans
Stoke on Trent
Swansea
Teesside (Middlesbrough)
Wolverhampton

Prisons with video link

HMP Altcourse
HMYOI Ashfield
HMP Bedford
HMP Belmarsh
HMP Birmingham
HMP Blakenhurst
HMYOI Brinsford
HMP Bristol
HMP Brixton
HMP Brockhill
HMP Bronzefield
HMP Bullingdon,
HMP Cardiff
HMYOI Castington
HMP Chelmsford
HMP Doncaster
HMP Dorchester
HMP Durham
HMP Eastwood Park
HMP Elmley
HMYOI Exeter
HMPYOI Feltham
HMP Forest Bank

HMYOI Glen Parva
HMP Gloucester
HMP Highdown
HMP Hindley
HMP Holloway
HMP Holme House
HMP Hull
HMYOI Lancaster Farms
HMP Leeds
HMP Leicester
HMP Lewes
HMP Lincoln
HMP Liverpool
HMP Low Newton
HMP Manchester
HMYOI New Hall
HMP Norwich
HMYOI Norwich
HMP Nottingham
HMP Parc
HMP Parkhurst
HMP Pentonville
HMP Peterborough
HMP Preston
HMYOI Reading
HMP Shrewsbury
HMYOI Stoke Heath
HMP Styal
HMP Swansea
HMP Wandsworth
HMYOI Wetherby
HMP Winchester
HMP Woodhill
HMP Wormwood Scrubs

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9054]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company DODS (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the related financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. The Ministry of Justice does not keep a central record of every member of staff that attends, or the amount of employee working hours taken up by attendance. Obtaining this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. There will have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates, which will be paid for by the department. Travel and subsistence costs relating specifically to attendance at Civil Service Live events are not held centrally and obtaining this information would incur a disproportionate cost. Civil servants attending the event will, however, have followed the Ministry's travel and subsistence guidelines.

Gary Critchley

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department or its predecessor has had discussions with the Criminal Cases Review Commission on the case of Gary Critchley since its inception. [8845]

Mr Blunt: There is no record of Ministers or officials from the Ministry of Justice, or its predecessors, having any discussions with the Criminal Cases Review Commission, since its inception, about the case of Gary Critchley. The Commission is independent in its consideration of cases and it would be inappropriate for Ministers to comment or intervene on individual cases.

Offenders: Risk Assessment

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what risk assessment tools are used by the *(a)* National Probation Service and *(b)* Prison Service. [9455]

Mr Blunt: The principal risk assessment tool used across the probation service and prison service is the Offender Assessment System (OASys). OASys includes two predictors of reoffending, the OASys General reoffending Predictor (OGP) and the OASys Violence Predictor (OVP), and a separate risk of serious harm component focusing upon the likelihood of life-threatening and/or traumatic events. For those offenders who are not assessed through OASys, the Offender Group Reconviction Scale version 3 (OGRS 3) provides a prediction of proven reoffending within one and two years.

Other tools are used for particular groups of offenders. The Spousal Abuse Risk Assessment (SARA) is frequently used with those convicted of domestic violence. Risk Matrix 2000 (RM2000) is used across both prison and probation services to estimate likelihood of sexual and violent reoffending risk among men with a history of sexual offending; this is a static risk scale which informs decisions about appropriate intensity of treatment and management. Also for sex offenders undergoing treatment programmes, the Structured Assessment of Risk and Need (SARN) is used to guide treatment, report on the impact of treatment and determine future supervision needs. For long-term, violent, prisoners, tools such as the Historical Clinical and Risk management 20 (HCR-20), Violence Risk Scale (VRS), and Psychopathy Check List Revised (PCL-R) may also be used in order to guide risk assessment and treatment approaches.

Magistrates

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what budget headings he calculated his estimate of £123,555 for the running costs of Wisbech magistrates court in 2009-10. [9408]

Mr Djanogly: The 2009-10 operating costs for Wisbech magistrates court includes the following:

rates;
property services;
IT services;
fuel and utilities;
service costs;
telecoms; and
maintenance.

Non-molestation Orders

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions of (i) men and (ii) women who have been in breach of a non-molestation injunction order there have been since the coming into force of the provisions of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004. [8556]

Mr Blunt: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and sexual offences. From these centrally reported data it is not possible to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Information on prosecutions and convictions of those who breach the terms of their injunction is not currently available. Statisticians in the Ministry of Justice are currently undertaking a programme of work which aims to provide reliable statistics on such cases in the future.

Offences Against Children: Foster Care

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foster parents have been *(a)* investigated for, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of child cruelty offences in each of the last five years. [9346]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not centrally hold details on investigations, or whether the defendant was related to the victim other than where the offence is specified separately in law. It is therefore not possible to identify from prosecutions or convictions for cruelty to or neglect of children, those which relate to foster parents.

Prison Sentences

Mr Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the prison population in England and Wales comprised prisoners sentenced to *(a)* six months imprisonment or less and *(b)* between six and 12 months on the latest date for which information is available. [8982]

Mr Blunt: As at 31 May 2010 there were 4,626 and 3,227 prisoners serving sentences of less than six months and six months to less than 12 months respectively. These groups represent 5.4% and 3.8% respectively of the total prison population, which was 85,018 at 31 May 2010.

The figures are taken from Table 1 of the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin "Population in custody monthly tables May 2010 England and Wales" and available at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff in HM Prison Service have transferred to work in the National Probation Service since the creation of the National Offender Management Service; [9456]

(2) how many staff of the National Probation Service have transferred to work in the Prison Service since the creation of the National Offender Management Service. [9771]

Mr Blunt: Information on the leaving destination of staff in the HM Prison Service and in Probation Trusts is collected centrally but not in enough detail to provide figures on the number of staff transferring between the two services.

Prison Service: Probation Service

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has flowed from *(a)* the Prison Service budget to the probation budget and *(b)* from the probation budget to the Prison Service budget in each of the 10 regional offender management areas in each of the last five years. [9457]

Mr Blunt: There have been no budget flows between prisons and probation in the last five years.

Prisoners: Drugs

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol-dependent prisoners in the prison population in England and Wales. [9580]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) estimates that on average 55% of those entering prison are drug dependent. The number who are physically dependent on alcohol, which can be defined as those who need alcohol detoxification, are estimated to be around 15% of males and 12% of females.

Drug and alcohol treatment need in prisons is determined on a local basis. Central estimates of treatment need are reliant on epidemiological surveys. The figures above are derived primarily from an Office for National Statistics (ONS) report[1] which followed a large psychiatric survey of morbidity among prisoners[2] in 1997.

A more recent source of information regarding prevalence of substance misuse among sentenced prisoners is "The problems and needs of newly sentenced prisoners: results from a national survey" published by the Ministry of Justice in October 2008. Although this did not look specifically at drug or alcohol dependency, it did show 62% of prisoners reporting some drug use and 36% reporting heavy drinking in the four weeks before custody.

In 2009-10, a total of 60,067 prisoners received a clinical intervention for drug dependency. Equivalent figures for alcohol were last collated centrally in 2002-03, when an estimated 6,400 prisoners undertook an alcohol detoxification and an estimated 7,000 more prisoners undertaking detoxification for combined alcohol and drug misuse.

[1] Singleton, N., Farrell, M. and Meltzer, H. (1998) "Substance misuse among prisoners in England and Wales". Office for National Statistics.

[2] Office for National Statistics (1997), "Psychiatric morbidity among prisoners".

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of detaining a person in prison compared with the cost of such people serving community sentences. [9446]

Mr Blunt: In 2008-09, the annual cost per prisoner was £41,000. It is not currently possible to separate the cost of supervising offenders on community sentences as probation caseloads also include significant numbers of offenders who have been released from a custodial sentence or released temporarily into the community. Work is in hand in the National Offender Management Service to ensure that all offender services delivered in custody and in the community are properly specified and costed so that commissioners can ensure resources are targeted effectively to protect the public and reduce reoffending.

Our future plans for, and the balance of expenditure between, custodial and community provision will need to be considered in light of the assessment of sentencing and work on new approaches to rehabilitation.

Sentencing

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research from *(a)* internal and *(b)* external sources his Department has (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on the effectiveness of sentences of less than six months. [9383]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice produces re-offending rates. 65.3% of those released from sentences of less than six months in the first quarter of 2008 re-offended within 12 months. In terms of community sentences, the proportion of offenders commencing a court order who committed a re-offence in 2008 was 36.1%. Differences between the offenders that receive different sentences mean comparisons with other forms of disposal cannot be made using these raw figures. However, the Department is currently working on a more sophisticated analysis of re-offending rates to control for differences between those sent to prison and other offenders. The results will be published in late November.

Aside from this the Ministry of Justice has not commissioned or evaluated any evidence specifically on the effectiveness of sentences of less than six months. The Ministry of Justice is conducting further analysis to support the current sentencing review. This will be published alongside the review's proposals.

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Delyn of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 171-4W, on prison sentences, in respect of how many of the offences listed in the answer the available sentences have been reviewed by the Sentencing Guidelines Council. [9384]

Mr Blunt: Of the 116 offences and offence groupings listed 51 are covered by offence-specific guidelines issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council. In a further eight offence groupings in the list there are offence-specific guidelines issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council that cover some offences within the grouping.

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Law Officers, *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(c)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the use of sentences of less than six months; [9385]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Lord Chief Justice, *(b)* the Sentencing Council for England and Wales, *(c)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(d)* representatives of criminal justice non-governmental organisations on the use of sentences of less than six months. [9386]

Mr Blunt: As part of his introduction to his new role, my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Kenneth Clarke) has had discussions with a wide range of Cabinet colleagues and representatives from the criminal justice system, which have touched on many issues. Short custodial sentences will be considered as part of our full assessment of sentencing policy and we will be seeking the views of sentencers and others as part of that exercise.

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Delyn of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 171-74W, on prison sentences, which of the offences listed in the answer for which custodial sentences of six months or fewer were given he is considering for community-based sentences. [9387]

Mr Blunt: We believe that prison is essential for serious offenders. But community sentences can be more effective in promoting rehabilitation and reducing reoffending. We are carrying out a full assessment of sentencing policy and will set out our proposals in a Green Paper in the autumn.

Under current legislation, a community order is available for adults as a sentence for any imprisonable offence, except those for which the sentence is fixed by law, where the offending is serious enough to warrant a community sentence. The law also makes it clear that even if the offending is so serious that custody is justified, mitigating factors can allow the court to impose a community sentence. Within statutory limits, the sentence imposed in any individual case is entirely a matter for the court.

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent advice he has received on the appropriateness of community sentences; and if he will make a statement. [9388]

Mr Blunt: Published statistics suggest that community sentences can be more effective than short prison sentences in reducing reoffending.

A community sentence is not a soft option. It can combine tough punishment with changing offenders' behaviour and making amends. It can also encourage the offender to deal with any problems that might be making them commit crime, such as drug or alcohol misuse. The failure to deal effectively with the root causes of an individual's offending and the excessive use of imprisonment often just delays further offending when that person is released from prison, having been further influenced by exposure to more serious offenders.

We are conducting a full assessment of sentencing policy to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting re-offending. Community sentences will be considered as part of that assessment and we will be asking judges and magistrates for their views on which are effective.

Tribunals: Disability Living Allowance

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of appeals and tribunals relating to disability living allowance in respect of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children with autism in each of the last 10 years; [8644]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of appeals and tribunals relating to disability living allowance in each of the last 10 years. [8749]

Mr Djanogly: The First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support) does not record disability living allowance (DLA) appeals by the age of the appellant or by their disability and cannot, therefore, provide the cost of specific case types. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost by manually checking individual appeal files. In addition, the First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support) destroys appeal files six months after the conclusion of a case, so, for the majority of the period requested by the hon. Member, information is no longer available.

The Tribunals Service was created in 2006 and can provide figures only from this date. Prior to this, the Appeals Service, an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was responsible for the appeals system. The DWP is unable to provide any data.

The cost of DLA appeals is shown in the following table:

	Cost (£)
2009-10	14,879,189
2008-09	19,577,782
2007-08	20,489,002
2006-07	22,420,022

War Crimes

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been prosecuted under section 1 of the War Crimes Act 1991 in each year since the Act entered into force. [R] [8573]

Mr Blunt: Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not separately identify offences under the War Crimes Act 1991. Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes are recorded as murder or ancillary offences.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish his Department's implementation plans for achieving a 20 per cent. year reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from its estate over the next 12 months. [9579]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister committed central Government Departments to reduce carbon emissions from energy use in their buildings by 10% in the first 12 months of this Government. As set out in a previous answer I gave to the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham) on 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 337W, DECC will play its part by adopting further technological measures and involving building users in additional behaviour change to deliver the required savings. It is expected that all departments will make further information about the measures they intend to take to reduce emissions available on their websites in due course.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7977]

Gregory Barker: In the two month period from 12 May, the date when the full ministerial portfolio was announced, to 12 July the Department has spent £47,584.71 on the Government Car Service.

Departmental Regulations

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7155]

Gregory Barker: DECC are actively engaged in adopting the principles of regulation of the coalition Government. As part of this work all policies inherited by the last Government and yet to be implemented are being reviewed. Lord Marland has also written to DECC stakeholders asking for their views on possible existing or planned DECC regulations that may be simplified or repealed. I will consider the need for a statement once the review has been finalised.

Departmental Responsibilities

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish his Department's Structural Reform Plan. [10150]

Gregory Barker: The Department is planning to publish its Structural Reform Plan when we make the Annual Energy Statement to Parliament at the end of this month.

Departmental Secondment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to increase the number of officials seconded from his Department to the EU institutions. [9284]

Gregory Barker: We are currently recruiting two European Fast streamers in DECC (due for entry September 2010). As the Cabinet Office guidance states the purpose of these roles is to develop the capacity of the fast streamers to be successful in applications and assessment to posts in the European Commission.

Additionally we are about to support an interchange agreement to the European Commission's Climate Action Team 50% funded by DECC and 50% funded by the Department for Transport.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6440]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 3 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 51-52W. The National School of Government is funded through its Core Learning Programme to deliver induction and other training to Ministers and there is no separate charge to Departments.

Energy

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce the national policy statement on energy. [8613]

Charles Hendry: I refer the right hon. Member to my statement to the House of 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

Energy: Public Buildings

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to encourage the use of heat pumps in Government buildings, including the implementation of air source and ground source heat pumps, in order to reduce energy costs. [9681]

Gregory Barker: Government Departments will need to make an assessment of where air source and ground source heat pumps can play a cost-effective part in delivering their energy use and emissions reductions to meet the central Government 10% emissions reduction target, alongside other technologies and energy efficiency measures.

National Grid: Security

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will discuss with Ministerial colleagues the introduction in the UK of grid protection measures similar to those in the US Grid Reliability and Infrastructure Defense Bill; and if he will make a statement; [9320]

(2) if he will seek advice from the US administration on the means of implementing in the UK current proposals for grid protection in the US; and if he will make a statement. [9321]

Charles Hendry: The protection and resilience of the Critical National Infrastructure (CNI), which underpins the delivery of essential services to our citizens, is taken very seriously across Government. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) works closely with the Centre for the Protection of Critical National Infrastructure (CPNI) and the energy industry to ensure an integrated approach to protective security in the sector, by means of physical, cyber, and personnel security measures which are appropriate and proportionate to the risk.

The Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update of June 2009, considers a range of methods of cyber attacks. It also outlined new governance structures and workstreams which are now building on existing work to take forward the Government's plan for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks. The Government are building upon this work and have already discussed the importance of proportionate protection for cyber attacks within the newly formed National Security Council, at which the SoS for Energy and Climate Change was present.

DECC works closely with the UK's energy sector to consider the impacts to energy supplies of a range of hazards and threats, including solar flares and electromagnetic pulse (EMP). Together with the CPNI and the Office of Cyber Security (OCS) we identify and mitigate vulnerabilities in the national infrastructure that could be exploited by such threats, including cyber threats, and share best practice across the CNI. We continually assess the risks we identify, determine proportionate mitigations where necessary, and regularly test our responses through national and international exercises.

The CPNI provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities, companies and financial centres. The CPNI also provides a Response Service which responds to reported attacks on private sector networks. Indeed, if a cyber security breach impacts an energy utility company's operational capability leading to security of supply concerns, the Government have existing procedures (including my Department's emergency response plans) and existing powers (including, where appropriate, emergency powers under the Energy Act 1976) to intervene.

We are keen to discuss these proposals with US counterparts, and have an ongoing interest to learn from our allies and their approaches to national security.

DECC does not, or course, have responsibility for the resilience of sites critical to the UK national defence, one of the aspects of this particular Act. I can confirm, however, that my colleague, the Secretary of State for Defence, has robust defences and continuity arrangements in place to maintain the integrity of all sites critical to the defence of the United Kingdom.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) on funding the programme of work set out in the recently published NDA report on nuclear waste management, "Geological Disposal: Steps towards implementation". [9149]

Charles Hendry: Ministers have regular discussions with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) which cover all aspects, including resources and financial performance, of the decommissioning and clean-up of the UK's public civil nuclear sites including the geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste.

The Government welcome the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) report "Geological Disposal: Steps towards implementation". Government are committed to ensuring implementation of geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste, coupled with safe and secure interim storage and a geological disposal facility siting process based on voluntarism and partnership.

Tackling the nuclear legacy is a high priority and we are committed to securing the funding necessary to maintain safety and make progress with decommissioning. Funding for 2011-12 will be dealt with through the spending review process but implementation of geological disposal is necessarily a long term programme and investment will be incurred over a period of many decades. Government are committed to a process that is staged and allows costs and value for money to be assessed at various points as the programme proceeds.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last made an assessment of the value for money and relevance of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate research and development programme in support of delivery of Managing Radioactive Waste Safely plans. [9150]

Charles Hendry: Government are committed to ensuring implementation of geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste, coupled with safe and secure interim storage and ongoing research and development (R&D) to support its optimised implementation. The implementation process is staged and allows costs and value for money to be assessed at various points as the programme proceeds.

Following consultation, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate published its 'Research and Development Strategy to underpin Geological Disposal' in March 2009. This sets out how a needs-driven R&D programme will be delivered in a way that ensures both quality and value for money. This includes procuring R&D services through a competitive tender process, proactively managing R&D activities, using internal and external review to ensure technical quality, making results widely available and regularly evaluating the outputs of the programme. The strategy is available at:

www.nda.gov.uk/aboutus/geological-disposal/documentation.cfm

Furthermore, the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) reported on the current provision and future R&D needs for the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme in 2009. Government are currently considering this report and will be responding shortly. Copies of this response will be placed into the Libraries of the House.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what cost-recovery arrangements the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is applying to the agreement made in June 2010 with the Nuclear Industry Association on behalf of potential new build operators to undertake initial feasibility studies to investigate *(a)* consideration of alternative geological disposal facility design options for new build spent fuel, *(b)* issue associated with centralised spent fuel storage, *(c)* issues associated with centralised spent fuel packaging and *(d)* consideration of alternative spent fuel cask designs; and what the monetary value is of the contract. [9151]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) has a contract in place to allow all costs incurred from these initial feasibility studies to be paid by the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA).

The value of the initial feasibility studies contract to be reimbursed to RWMD is £110,000. The contract, which is for the provision of advice, allows for other future work to be contracted by the NIA to the RWMD. The total value of the current contract which could be drawn upon in the future for follow-on studies is £500,000.

Renewable Energy

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the EU Renewable Energy Directive in supporting the use of waste bioliquids under the renewables obligation; and if he will make a statement. [8549]

Charles Hendry: The renewable energy directive considers bioliquids derived from waste to have zero life cycle greenhouse gas emissions up to the point at which the fuel is collected or processed. Some wastes are exempt from the land-based criteria designed to protect land with high biodiversity, land protected for nature conservation purposes and land with a high carbon stock.

We intend to amend the Renewables Obligation Order to incorporate the sustainability criteria for bioliquids in compliance with the renewable energy directive.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of the UK energy supply comes from renewable generation; and what the equivalent figure is projected to be *(a)* in each of the next five years and *(b)* in 2020. [9328]

Charles Hendry: Overall UK energy consumption from renewables was 2.3% in 2008 (the latest data available). The Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2010, giving 2009 data, will be published at the end of July.

Projections of the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption under the EU renewable energy directive definition for 2010-14 and 2020 are given in the table. These are based on June 2010 Updated Energy and Emissions Projections published on the DECC website.

Projected renewable energy as percentage of final energy consumption (RED) definition

	Percentage
2010	2.9
2011	3.4
2012	4.0
2013	4.8
2014	5.9
2020	15.2

Source:
DECC June 2010 updated Energy and Emissions Projections

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to implement the recommendations of the National Audit Office report on Government funding for developing renewable energy technologies, HC35. [9373]

Charles Hendry: I welcome the National Audit Office (NAO) report on Government funding for developing renewable energy technologies. We are currently drawing up plans to implement the recommendations in the report. Action has already been taken within the Department in response to its Capability Review, and this addresses some of the NAO's recommendations.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to introduce local targets for the generation of renewable energy; and if he will make a statement. [9449]

Gregory Barker: We are committed to a radical devolution of power and financial autonomy to local government and community groups. The future of local area agreements will be considered in this context and we will make a further announcement in due course.

Tackling climate change is one of our top priorities and we want to see communities and individuals owning a stake in our collective low-carbon future. For example we want communities to directly benefit from wind farms they host. This is why we will allow councils to keep the additional business rates paid by wind farms and other renewable energy generators, and support communities in having a stake in appropriately sited renewable energy projects like wind farms.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to revise the 2009 UK renewable energy strategy to include targets for 2050. [9702]

Gregory Barker: The 2009 UK Renewable Energy Strategy was designed to set out how the UK would meet the target of achieving 15% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020.

As we announced in 'The Coalition: our programme for government', we are seeking the advice of the Committee on Climate Change on whether it will be possible to increase our ambitions for renewable energy. We will make decisions on whether to set any new targets for renewable energy in light of this work.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* limit the maximum height of wind turbines and *(b)* introduce a proximity rule on applications for wind farms sited close to residential areas. [9809]

Charles Hendry: There are currently no plans to bring forward measures to limit the height of wind turbines or introduce a proximity rule. The assessment of an application to develop a wind farm already includes, among other things, an analysis of visual and landscape impacts to ascertain whether the location and height of the wind farm is acceptable. The Government consider that these impacts are best assessed on a case by case basis so that local factors can be taken fully into account, regardless of whether applications are dealt with at national or local level. Where applications are dealt with at local level, we believe that councils should have the opportunity to decide these matters on behalf of their local community.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she plans to relocate civil servants working for the Government Equalities Office *(a)* out of London and *(b)* to the West Midlands; and if she will make a statement. [8291]

Lynne Featherstone: The Minister for Women and Equalities is not proposing to relocate civil servants working for the Government Equalities Office (GEO) out of London or to the West Midlands. GEO is a very small policy Department working closely with Ministers in London.

Equal Pay: Gender

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will require businesses with more than 250 employees to disclose gender pay information by 2013 if they have not done so already. [6907]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 July 2010]:* The coalition agreement makes clear the Government's commitment to promote equal pay and to take a range of measures to end discrimination in the workplace.

In October we will bring section 77 of the Equality Act 2010 into force, ensuring employees can discuss their own pay freely in order to discover whether their pay is discriminatory.

We are considering how the rest of the Act can be implemented in the best way for business.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Early Day Motions

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost of administering and processing early day motions was in each year between 1997-98 and 2008-09. [10152]

Sir Stuart Bell: The latest estimate of the annual cost of administering early day motions, set out in the recent answer to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (14 June 2010), was approximately £1 million in financial year 2009-10. This included printing and publication, staff time and technical support. Figures for previous years are not readily available but there is no reason to suppose that that they have altered significantly in real terms, other than that the number of EDMs tabled has increased.

The number of EDMs tabled for each Session since 2000-01, together with the average number tabled per sitting day to enable comparisons to be made between Sessions of differing lengths, are as follows:

	Total	*Average per sitting day*
2000-01	659	7.9
2001-02	1,864	9.3
2002-03	1,939	12
2003-04	1,941	12.4
2004-05	1,033	15.9
2005-06	2,924	14.1
2006-07	2,193	15
2007-08	2,560	15.5
2008-09	2,272	16.7
2009-10	1,248	18.1

House of Commons Commission: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what discussions the House of Commons Commission has had on *(a)* its budget for 2010-11 and *(b)* the changes to staffing levels required to achieve budgetary reductions; and if he will make a statement. [9450]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commission initially discussed and agreed a resource estimate for 2010-11 on 14 December 2009. It also decided to cut House expenditure by 9% by the end of 2012-13, and in addition to absorb the cost of inflation. In the light of current economic circumstances, the Commission reconsidered the proposed 2010-11 Estimate on 7 June and 21 June 2010, and announced a reduction in its 2010-11 budget of 5% to £219 million on 22 June. The initial savings will be made in various ways, including scaling back a number of programmes and projects by £4 million, reducing the parliamentary works programme and a freeze on all but essential recruitment. £800,000 will be cut from the budget for select committee travel this year and, to save a further £500,000, catering prices across the House will be raised. This will bring cafeteria prices into line with benchmark workplace venues and bar prices into line with a competitively-priced high street pub chain. More detailed consideration of further reductions will be part of a savings programme set up to identify and achieve additional budget reductions over the next three years.

To achieve those savings over the next three years, some staff reductions may be needed, and the House Administration will consult staff and the recognised trade unions as plans are developed.

House of Commons: Parking

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission for what reasons the cabling work was undertaken in the underground car park during a period when the House was sitting; and for what reasons such work was not scheduled to be carried out during the summer recess. [9094]

Sir Stuart Bell: As part of the fire safety programme a safety issue was identified in the underground car park and it was decided to install, as soon as practicable, equipment to monitor Carbon Monoxide levels. The installation is now complete.

Nurseries

Mr Chope: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission how many expressions of interest in obtaining childcare places in the House of Commons Nursery have been received; and how many have been received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* hon. Members' staff and *(c)* others who work on the Parliamentary estate. [10191]

Sir Stuart Bell: To date 16 people have expressed a firm interest in a total of 17 nursery places, broken down as follows:

(a) hon. Members: six places;

(b) hon. Members' staff: four places;

(c) staff of the House or PICT (the only others who work on the parliamentary estate who are entitled to apply): seven places.

Expressions of firm interest have been accepted since June. Once the nursery is registered by OFSTED, firm expressions of interest will be able to be converted into bookings. Occupancy rates for a new nursery build up over time: the House of Commons Nursery has been planned on this basis.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Internet

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he made of the merits of making the content of the Your Freedom website available in languages other than English. [8994]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The goal of Your Freedom is to allow as many people as possible to contribute their ideas and comments in a cost-effective way. An assessment was made of translating the content into other languages but all options considered were felt to be disproportionately expensive.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* local government and *(b)* central Government databases electoral registration officers may use in undertaking their registration functions. [9187]

Mr Harper: The information is as follows:

(a) In Great Britain, electoral registration officers (EROs) may currently inspect records held by the local authority that appointed them and by the registrar of births and deaths (in Scotland, the registrar of births, deaths and marriages) to assist them in maintaining the electoral register. These include:

the register of births and deaths;
council tax records;
registers of households in multiple occupation;
local land and property gazetteers;
housing benefit applications;
lists of persons in residential and care homes (in unitary local authorities only); and
details of "attainers" (those aged 16 or 17) held by education departments (in unitary local authorities only).

EROs appointed by district or borough councils in two tier local authority areas may therefore not have access to records held by county councils, including data held by social services and education departments.

(b) EROs in Great Britain do not have access to central Government databases. However, in Northern Ireland a system of Individual Electoral Registration has been in place since 2002, and in 2006 the annual canvass was replaced with a system of 'continuous registration' based on data matching the electoral register against other public databases. The Chief Electoral Officer in Northern Ireland is allowed to access records held by the following authorities:

district councils;
the Registrar General of Births and Deaths in Northern Ireland;
the Northern Ireland Central Services Agency;
the Department for Work and Pensions;
secondary schools; and
the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate has been made of the proportion of *(a)* black and ethnic minority people, *(b)* students, *(c)* people living in social housing, *(d)* unemployed people and *(e)* low paid people who are on the electoral register; and what assessment has been made of the effects of the introduction of individual voter registration on registration rates for these groups. [9190]

Mr Harper: No recent national estimates have been made. However, the Electoral Commission found in their 2005 report Understanding Electoral Registration that, based on data from 2000:

(a) 17% of ethnic minority individuals;
(b) 22% of students;
(c) 10% of those renting from a local authority and 11% of those renting from a housing association or similar; and
(d) 18% of unemployed people

were unregistered. The report does not give a specific percentage for the numbers of low paid people who are unregistered, however the report did find that that:

> "areas with the highest levels of employment and income deprivation had the highest levels of non-registration in 2000."

While no recent national estimates have been made in these areas, the Electoral Commission's more recent report The Completeness and Accuracy of Electoral Registers in Great Britain (March 2010) found that, based on case study research:

> "Under-registration and inaccuracy are closely associated with the social groups most likely to move home across all seven areas in Phase two (therefore excluding Knowsley), under-registration is notably higher than average among 17-24 year-olds (56% not registered), private sector tenants (49%) and black and minority ethnic (BME) British residents (31%)".

The Government are considering options for implementation of individual electoral registration together with ways to maximise registration rates and will announce its approach in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance is provided to local authority electoral registration officers on their use of telephone calls to increase levels of electoral registration. [9192]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission produces guidance for electoral registration officers (EROs) on undertaking electoral registration.

The Commission's guidance highlights that it is for EROs to use whatever methods they decide on to maintain the register, bearing in mind the requirements of section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983. Each ERO is under a duty to take all steps that are necessary to maintain their registers.

The steps that EROs must take, as set out in that section, include:

(a) sending more than once to any address the form to be used for the canvass;
(b) making on one or more occasions house to house inquiries;
(c) making contact by such other means as the registration officer thinks appropriate with persons who do not have an entry in a register;
(d) inspecting any records held by any person which he is permitted to inspect under or by virtue of any enactment or rule of law;
(e) providing training to persons under his direction or control in connection with the carrying out of the duty.

I understand that the Commission's guidance encourages EROs to use telephones for applicants with visual impairments and to consider a telephone translation service for conducting the annual canvass in respect of those who do not speak English. However, applicants cannot apply to be added to the electoral register by telephone.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to encourage sixth formers and university students to register to vote. [9194]

Mr Harper: Neither I nor the Deputy Prime Minister have had such discussions. The Government are considering ways to maximise registration rates in the context of the implementation of individual electoral registration and will announce their approach in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities *(a)* used and *(b)* did not use door-to-door canvassing for the purpose of electoral registration in their most recent registration exercise. [9201]

Mr Harper: Under section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, electoral registration officers (EROs) have a duty to take certain steps to maintain the electoral register. The steps that EROs must take, as set out in that section, include:

(a) sending more than once to any address the form to be used for the canvass;

(b) making on one or more occasions house to house inquiries;

(c) making contact by such other means as the registration officer thinks appropriate with persons who do not have an entry in a register;

(d) inspecting any records held by any person which he is permitted to inspect under or by virtue of any enactment or rule of law;

(e) providing training to persons under his direction or control in connection with the carrying out of the duty.

The Government do not collect information on the steps taken by EROs. However, the Electoral Commission requests that EROs supply them with information about the methods they use to canvass properties. This information is supplied on a voluntary basis, and does not therefore give a comprehensive picture.

The most recent data are published in a spreadsheet titled "The electoral registration data for 2009" on the Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/data-collection

and includes the following headings:

Number of households sent an annual canvass form

Number of households returning a canvass form by personal canvasser

Number of electors added to the revised register following the 2009 annual canvass as a result of an annual canvass form

Number of electors on the local government register at 1 September 2009

Number of electors on the local government register at 1 December 2009

Simon Kirby: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to ensure the accuracy of the electoral register in each constituency. [9433]

Mr Harper: Electoral registration officers (EROs) are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register at a local level. However, the Government have committed to speeding up the implementation of individual electoral registration, which will improve the accuracy of the register in each constituency.

Under individual electoral registration, people will register themselves rather than be registered as part of a household and will each have to provide three personal identifiers, i.e. date of birth, signature and national insurance number—the last of which will be cross-checked against the Department for Work and Pensions database as assurance of identity. This will improve the accuracy of the register and its security, by ensuring that only those entitled to vote will get on the register.

The Government are currently considering the options for implementation of individual electoral registration in a way that will improve levels of registration, so people who are entitled to vote are on the register and will announce its approach to this in due course.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made in his consideration of implementation of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on the right of prisoners to vote in UK elections; and if he will make a statement. [10020]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering afresh the best way forward on the issue of prisoner voting rights.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has provided to electoral registration officers on means of increasing electoral registration rates among groups with low rates. [9184]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it issues guidance to electoral registration officers on their statutory duties, which is available to download from its website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

The Commission also publishes performance standards for electoral registration officers in Great Britain, which include standards relating to activities to encourage registration. The Commission has also been working with electoral registration officers who have fallen below the standards to improve their performance.

In addition, the Commission provides a range of resources for electoral registration officers to assist them in planning and conducting voter registration activities, which can also be downloaded from its website.

Labour Party: Finance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much funding from the public purse the Labour Party will receive under the Policy Development Grant in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [8719]

Mr Streeter: Section 12 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) requires the Electoral Commission to make payments of policy development grants to eligible political parties. Eligible parties are those that have at least two sitting Members of the House of Commons who have taken the oath of allegiance provided by the Parliamentary Oaths Act 1866.

The Electoral Commission informs me that the Labour Party can claim up to £456,612 in Policy Development Grants for the year 2010-11.

Figures for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are not yet available as the grant amount is determined annually on 7 March and is dependent on the number of sitting MPs on that date and the votes cast in the most recent UK wide election.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the contribution to gross domestic product of the Bank of England's Asset Purchase Scheme in fiscal years *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [7387]

Mr Hoban: The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England has operational responsibility for monetary policy, including use of the Asset Purchase Facility (APF). The Bank of England publishes quarterly reports on the APF in addition to minutes of the MPC's meetings, and a quarterly Inflation Report that sets out the detailed economic analysis and inflation projections on which the MPC bases its decisions. For example, analysis of the impact of the programme of asset purchases is set out on pages 12 and 13 of the May 2010 Inflation Report.

BP: Gulf of Mexico

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effects on tax revenues to the Exchequer of liabilities of companies involved in the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [9181]

Mr Gauke: It is not appropriate for the Government to comment on the confidential tax affairs of individual businesses.

Coinage: Anniversaries

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with the Royal Mint the striking of a coin to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer in 2012. [9205]

Justine Greening: In his capacity as Master of the Mint, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be considering themes for commemorative coins in 2012 in the coming months. The Royal Mint Advisory Committee will look at all of the proposed options before making final recommendations on which themes should be selected.

Once he has decided the themes, the Chancellor will then submit them to Her Majesty the Queen for final approval.

A similar process is then followed in order to select the actual designs that will feature on the coins.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9254]

Justine Greening: The Treasury does not hold any information on the time taken by contractors to pay sub-contractors invoices.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9040]

Justine Greening: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World).

The Treasury does not hold the details of individual attendees centrally and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to increase the number of officials seconded from his Department to the EU institutions. [9287]

Justine Greening: As part of the Government's drive to enhance the UK's representation and voice in the EU institutions, HM Treasury focuses on secondments to posts which have an impact in terms of UK priorities for EU economic and financial policy and delivery. Placements are reviewed regularly to ensure value for money.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1-2WS, on Equitable Life, what progress he has made on his plans to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policyholders through an independently-designed payment scheme; and if he will make a statement. [9726]

Karen Bradley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress has been made on payment of compensation to Equitable Life policyholders; and if he will make a statement. [10016]

Mr Hoban: Sir John Chadwick is advising the Treasury on the relative losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders in relation to those accepted cases of maladministration resulting in injustice. He will submit his report shortly.

At that time, the Government will publish Sir John's report alongside a detailed update on the next steps towards implementing an independently designed payment scheme.

Housing: Rents

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the percentage change in market rents for *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four bedroom properties in each broad market rental area in each year since 2000. [10193]

Mr Gauke: Broad rental market areas are subject to progressive review and updating. It is not therefore possible to provide estimates of market rents in each year since 2000.

Public Sector: North East

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the working population in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency and *(b)* the North East employed in the public sector. [8347]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the proportion of the working population in (a) Hartlepool constituency and (b) the North East employed in the public sector. (8347)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics for public sector employment from the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) and external sources. The public sector employment figures are compiled from returns from public sector organisations and are considered the best estimates for these statistics, however these figures are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

The ONS compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Individuals are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the APS. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in QPSES statistics.

Table 1, shows the number of persons employed in the public sector from the Public Sector Employment statistics in the North East, along with the estimate of the number and proportion of the working age population employed in the public sector in the Hartlepool constituency from the APS for the period January 2009 to December 2009. Estimates for the North East from the APS are also provided for comparison purposes.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in table 1.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number[1] and proportion of persons in employment in the public sector, resident in Hartlepool parliamentary constituency and in the North East

	QPSES	APS	
January-December 2009	*Number (thousand)*	*Number (thousand)*	*Proportion[2] (%)*
Hartlepool	—	***9	16.4
North East	290	*323	20.2

'—' Estimates are not available

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the APS estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

[2] Proportion of working age population.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ? 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey (APS) and Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES)

Research and Development Tax Credit

Richard Burden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his plans are for the future of research and development tax credits. [9147]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget statement that the Government will consult with business in autumn 2010 to review the taxation of intellectual property, the support R&D tax credits provide for innovation and the proposals of the Dyson review.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change to the level of the state pension following the restoration of the link with earnings. [4529]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is provided in the following table for the basic state pension.

The Government have committed to a "triple guarantee" of increasing the basic state pension by the highest of prices growth, earnings growth or 2.5%. Furthermore, so that pensioners are not left worse off than they would have been under the old price link, in 2011-12 the basic state pension will receive an increase equivalent to the growth in RPI, should that deliver the highest percentage increase. The following figures take into account the effects of this commitment.

These rates are estimated using the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecasts for growth and are consistent with the basic state pension expenditure forecasts published in the Budget of 22 June 2010.

The rates are indicative only as actual levels of inflation and earnings used may differ from forecasts. Actual increases in benefit rates are decided once the September inflation rates are available, ahead of the annual uprating order.

	Level of the basic state pension, standard rate on own contributions, weekly amount (£)
April 2011	101.85
April 2012	104.50
April 2013	107.10

	Level of the basic state pension, standard rate on own contributions, weekly amount (£)
April 2014	111.30
April 2015	116.20

Sterling

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to counter the rise of sterling relative to the euro and its effect on the exporting of British goods in the eurozone. [9776]

Justine Greening: The Government do not target the exchange rate but aims for price stability via an inflation target. The Government restated its full commitment to maintaining price stability in the Budget and the Chancellor confirmed that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will continue to target 2% inflation, as measured by the 12-month increase in the Consumer Prices Index.

The Government recognise that UK businesses need an environment which helps them compete in a global market place. The Budget announced a major package of tax reforms to improve the UK's competitiveness, intended to give businesses the confidence to invest for the long term, and to reduce the burden of tax and regulation.

VAT: Religious Buildings

Sajid Javid: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that listed places of worship will be able to reclaim value added tax incurred on repairs and maintenance following the closure of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme in March 2011. [8244]

John Penrose: I have been asked to reply.

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings mainly in use for worship. The scheme is currently in place until the end of March 2011. A decision on the future of the scheme can be taken only as part of wider spending review discussions, and will be announced as soon as possible.

VAT: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in value added tax by residents in each income group in each constituency in North Wales in 2009-10. [7063]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how much was paid in value added tax by residents in each income group in each constituency in North Wales in 2009-10. (7063).

Table 1 shows the average amount of VAT paid by households, by equivalised disposable income decile groups in the UK in 2008/09, the latest period which data are available. An estimate for all households in Wales is provided; however data by income group in Wales, or by parliamentary constituency, are not available due to small sample sizes.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Average annual household VAT payment by equivalised disposable income decile groups[1], 2008-09

£ per year

	Income decile group										
	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
UK	1,101	1,085	1,295	1,562	1,609	1,927	2,155	2,616	2,871	3,747	1,997
Wales[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,788

[1] Households are ranked from lowest income to highest income. This distribution is then divided into 10 groups of equal size (referred to as decile groups). The bottom decile group is the 10% of households with the lowest incomes.

[2] Data by income group are not available for Wales due to small sample sizes.

Source:

Office for National Statistics.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Addresses

Mr Allen: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what steps the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is taking to provide sufficient fields in its IT system to enable the full addresses of all hon. Members' homes and offices to be *(a)* entered and *(b)* accepted. [9863]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA maintains address information in two systems, HR Payroll and Expenses@Work. Address information in the Expenses@Work system is required to provide a check that any invoice or receipt that the MP submits to IPSA for reimbursement is for the correct property. Only the first line of the address and postcode is required for verification. IPSA uses this to match the invoice or receipt to the registered property. IPSA does not store more information than necessary in the Expenses@Work system and IPSA has no plans at present to include additional fields for addresses.

The HR payroll system has the full address of all MPs. This address is used for correspondence.

Members: Claims

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (1) what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has made of the administrative burden its online claims system places on hon. Members in terms of hours worked per month compared to the paper-based claims system in use previously; and what representations IPSA has received about this matter from hon. Members; [9618]

(2) if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) will adapt its administrative systems in order to reduce the time required of hon. Members and their staff to complete expenses claims to the minimum that is consistent with the transparency and accountability required by the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009. [9620]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA has not conducted a review of the administrative burden placed on Members by the online claims system in comparison with the previous paper-based system. It has received a number of representations on this matter, some indicating that the system is easier and simpler to use than expected and others that it places unreasonable burdens on Members and their staff. IPSA continues to review the online system to ensure that it meets industry standards of usability and accessibility, and enables the transparency and accountability required by the Parliamentary Standards Act. In addition, it is offering MPs one-to-one assistance with the online system.

Members: Training

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority for what reasons the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority offered training to hon. Members on the operation of the online system for claiming reimbursement from allowances by means of a screenshot presentation rather than by means of the on-system training offered to hon. Members staff. [9814]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA took the view that screenshots would be sufficient to provide an initial overview of the system at induction. This overview could not be provided using the live system because inductions were provided at a variety of locations convenient to MPs, not all of which had a guaranteed internet connection. MPs who wish to have training using the live online system have been invited to contact IPSA to arrange this. They have also been welcomed to attend the same training sessions as have been available for their staff.

EDUCATION

Charities

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what processes apply to the issuing of grants to charities by his Department. [5509]

Tim Loughton: Since the formation of the Department for Education no new grant programmes to charities, social enterprises and the voluntary and community sector have been announced. All grant programmes administered by the predecessor Department, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, were run in accordance with Compact principles. The Department for Education is committed to adhering to the Compact principles in the consideration and administration of any future grant programmes.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many buildings his Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [6856]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education occupies *(a)* one property in London and *(b)* 4 in the UK. The details of the four properties are:

London

Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P3BT

Sheffield (took occupation in June 2010)

St Paul's Place
125 Norfolk Street
Sheffield
S1 2FJ

Runcorn

Castle View House
East Lane
Runcorn
WA7 2DN

Darlington

Mowden Hall
Staindrop Road
Darlington
DL3 9BG

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £670 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6824]

Tim Loughton: The £670 million savings break down as follows:

Area of spending	*Amount (£ million)*
From a number of arm's length bodies	88
From a range of youth budgets	60
Through doing things differently to make efficiency improvements on a range of smaller budgets	133
Corporate services, IT and communications budgets	22
Schools capital budgets	33
Reducing bureaucracy	23
Area based grants: detail being determined through spending review	311
Total	670

While many of the savings are being achieved through doing things more cheaply and efficiently than previously, others have yet to be finally determined, and there is more work to be done to finalise the details. The thinking is being fleshed out in the course of the spending review work now in hand.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 396W, on departmental reorganisation, (1) what the itemised components are of the cost of re-naming the Department for Education; [4324]

(2) what the reasons are for the difference between the figure given in that answer and that released in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [4325]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* A breakdown of costs associated with the renaming of the Department is contained in the following table. All costs are exclusive of VAT.

Item	*Costs (£)*
Development of new brand	5,250
Update of website	2,250
Signage	1,404
Stationery	91
Total	8,995

The answer given to the hon. Member's earlier question and answers given to all Freedom of Information requests accurately reflect the information which was requested.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 396W, on departmental reorganisation, how much was spent under each budget heading on renaming his Department. [6293]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 7 July 2010]:* The cost of renaming the Department was £5,250. In addition, it cost £2,250 to update our website, £1,404 for signage, £91 for stationery with the new brand and £1,215.44 for disposal and recycling of old stationery stock.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7590]

Tim Loughton: The Department is not able to provide a full response to the above question as this would incur disproportionate costs. We can provide the information for the Department's own buildings since 2007/08.

In 2007/08 the Department spent (i) £1,269,724 on electricity (ii) £86,069 on water (iii) £219,602 on heating and (iv) £1,956,118 on telephony.

In 2008/09 the Department spent (i) £1,443,144 on electricity (ii) £80,680 on water (iii) £240,208 on heating and (iv) £1,862,226 on telephony.

In 2009/10 the Department spent (i) £1,510,386 on electricity (ii) £46,031 on water (iii) £245,280 on heating and (iv) £1,508,973 on telephony.

EC Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6876]

Tim Loughton: It is not possible to estimate the cost to the Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations because there are no records from which this information can readily be identified

To estimate the cost of compliance with these obligations would involve disproportionate expenditure.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department's guidance notes for discretionary learner support funds for 16 to 18 year olds and adults will be published. [7883]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which operates the discretionary learner support scheme for the Department for Education, including issuing the guidance. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Shipley with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Education: Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's definition is of lower priority projects in relation to reductions in the 14 to 19 education budget. [4083]

Mr Gibb: As the new coalition Government continue to develop and outline their objectives for education, the Department has taken steps to review all its programmes of work to assess what is required to support such plans, taking into account the imperative of tackling the budget deficit.

The Department has now delivered funding to programmes for 2010-11 that meet the main priorities of the new coalition Government, while ensuring value for money is maintained. As the coalition Government announced at the end of May, funding to support students already in the education system has been protected for this financial year.

In carrying out the review of the 14-19 programmes, as part of the spending review, the Department has also undertaken to make significant savings that will enable us to contribute towards the reduction in the nation's budget deficit.

Free School Meals: Greater Manchester

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* Worsley and Eccles South constituency and *(b)* Salford who would have been eligible for a free school meal from September 2010 under the proposals of the previous administration. [6746]

Mr Gibb: The sum of £85 million allocated by the previous Government to extend free school meals this year, followed by costs of £190 million in 2011-12 and £215 million in 2012-13, falls far short of the true cost of £125 million this year, which the Department estimates will increase in cost to £310 million in 2011-12 and £350 million in 2012-13. Therefore the previous Administration would not have been able to meet its commitment to extend free school meals.

GCE A-Level

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he plans to reform AS Level qualifications; and if he will make a statement; [6911]

(2) whether he plans to reform the format and structure of the A Level qualification; and if he will make a statement. [6912]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 July 2010]:* We plan to give universities and learned bodies more say over the development of A level examinations, to ensure that they are robust and rigorous, and properly prepare students for higher education. We shall make a further announcement on the detail of reforms to the development of qualifications later in the year.

GCSE: Enfield North

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils in each school in Enfield North constituency obtained five GCSEs at grades A* to C in each of the last five years. [8199]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is in the following table:

Proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C: schools in Enfield North*

Percentage

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Mainstream schools					
Albany school	34	35	23	32	40
Bishop Stopford's school	73	66	80	59	70
Chace community school	45	39	46	51	57
Enfield county school	70	63	75	76	81
Enfield grammar school	65	62	65	68	77
Kingsmead school	47	48	44	53	55
Lea Valley high school	24	35	37	56	55
Oasis academy Enfield	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	[3]—	[3]—
Oasis academy-Hadley	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—
St Ignatius college	65	73	69	63	74
St John's preparatory and senior school	100	100	100	94	100
Special schools					
Aylands school	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
Durants school	[4]—	0	[4]—	0	[4]—
Waverley school	[5]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—

[1] School not published.

[2] Opened—new school, results not published.

[3] No KS4 pupils—school had no pupils in year 11.

[4] Results based on 10 or fewer pupils are suppressed.

[5] School had pupils in year 11 but did not have any entered for KS4 qualifications.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables.

The figures provided in this answer are taken directly from the Achievement and Attainment Tables publication:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

A wider range of achievement indicators for schools within a selected parliamentary constituency are available from this site.

National Curriculum Tests

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of schools did not enter pupils for standard assessment tests in 2009 owing to industrial action by teaching unions. [7223]

Mr Gibb: The Qualifications and Development Agency has confirmed that 4,005 schools did not administer the 2010 key stage 2 national curriculum tests. This is 26% of the maintained schools expected to do so. A list of these schools can be viewed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/ks2-results-released

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism was used to establish threshold levels for standard assessment tests in 2009-10; and whether the industrial action by teaching unions had an effect on the threshold. [7226]

Mr Gibb: The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) was responsible for establishing level thresholds for the 2010 national curriculum tests. Lin Hinnigan, QCDA executive accounting officer, has written to my hon. Friend with the information on the mechanisms used to agree thresholds for this year's tests.

Letter from Lin Hinnigan, dated 15 July 2010:

I am writing in response to the Parliamentary Question you recently tabled regarding level setting National Curriculum Tests, as requested by the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb MP: "To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what mechanism was used to establish threshold levels for standard assessment tests in 2009-10; and whether the industrial action by teaching unions had an effect on the threshold."

The process of level setting for Key Stage 2 tests in English and mathematics 2010 was exactly the same as for previous years. The industrial action undertaken by teacher unions did not have any effect on how the process worked this year.

In terms of the process used to set levels, a range of procedures, both statistical and judgemental, are used to ensure the standards of performance required for the award of each level are maintained consistently from year to year. This includes extensive pre-testing of all test papers so that tests can be equated statistically from year to year. Since this equating is based on data obtained during pre-testing, loss of data due to fewer pupils taking the actual test would not have an impact on the process. Evidence is also obtained through a judgemental exercise, whereby a panel of senior markers scrutinise real pupils' test papers in order to identify the threshold where performance characterises that expected of pupils at each level.

QCDA then chairs a formal level setting meeting which takes place to weigh up both strands of evidence in order to recommend a final threshold for each level which is signed off by the QCDA accountable officer. This meeting is also observed by Ofqual, who have a role as the regulator to ensure that assessments give a reliable indication of achievement and indicate a consistent level of attainment.

I trust this information is useful. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on procedures for *(a)* completion and *(b)* analysis of data from standard assessment tests in 2009-10 (i) through the Reporting and Analysis of Improvement through School Self-Evaluation online system and (ii) other means of the industrial action taken by teaching unions. [7227]

Mr Gibb: The RAISEonline (Reporting and Analysis for Improvement through School Self Evaluation) system uses the results of national curriculum tests at key stage 2 to provide schools with analyses of their own results. The system will provide the full range of analyses for those schools that administered the 2010 key stage 2 tests.

Schools that did not administer the tests this year will be unable to access RAISEonline analyses of the attainment and progress of their pupils at end of key stage 2.

Schools: Rural Areas

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the fairness of the application of the school funding mechanism for rural shire counties in comparison with other authorities. [6463]

Mr Gibb: We are already committed to changes to the school funding system through the introduction of a pupil premium for disadvantaged children. As well as the premium, any changes to the funding system will need to support our policy objective of giving schools more freedom including through increasing the number of Academies and making it easier for parents and other groups to start new schools. We are considering school funding arrangements for 2011-12 and beyond and will be announcing our proposals in the coming months.

Schools: Transport

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if the Government will bring forward proposals for legislation for school transport for pupils with special educational needs to ensure greater account is taken of the views of parents on the school most appropriate for their child. [3103]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities (LAs) have to make suitable home to school transport arrangements for those children who are unable to walk to school because of their special educational needs (SEN), disability or mobility problems.

Under the Education Act 1996 parents have the right to express a preference for the maintained school (mainstream or special) they wish their child to attend. However, in all cases it is for a LA to decide what provision is required to meet a child's SEN, and where that provision should be made, taking into account the individual needs of the child.

If parents express a preference for a school further away than the nearest suitable school, the LA is not under a duty to provide transport to the school.

There are no proposals to alter current legislation regarding school transport for pupils with special educational needs.

Short-Stay Schools

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age have been in short stay schools for more than six months in each local authority area. [7541]

Mr Gibb: The legislative provision which changed the name of pupil referral units to short-stay schools was to be commenced on 1 September 2010. We have decided to delay commencement and plan to introduce provisions in Parliament in due course to repeal the name change. In the meantime pupil referral units will continue to be called by that name.

Information on the length of time a pupil has been in a pupil referral unit (PRU) is not available.

Short-Stay Schools: Special Educational Needs

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age with non-statemented special educational needs are placed in short-stay schools in each local authority area. [7542]

Mr Gibb: The legislative provision which changed the name of Pupil Referral Units to Short-Stay Schools was to be commenced on 1 September 2010. We have decided to delay commencement and plan to introduce provisions in parliament in due course to repeal the name change. In the meantime pupil referral units (PRUs) will continue to be called by that name.

The information requested relating to PRUs is shown in the following table.

Pupil referral units: Number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) without a statement by age[1,2] As at January 2010, in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils with SEN without a statement aged[3]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
England	x	310	7,700	120	8,130
North East	0	20	400	0	410
Darlington	0	x	50	0	50
Durham	0	10	40	0	50
Gateshead	0	0	70	0	70
Hartlepool	0	0	x	0	x
Middlesbrough	0	0	30	0	30
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	10	90	0	100
North Tyneside	0	0	x	0	x
Northumberland	0	0	x	0	x
Redcar and Cleveland	0	x	60	0	60
South Tyneside	0	0	20	0	20
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	10	0	10
Sunderland	0	0	20	0	20
North west	0	70	1,250	x	1,310
Blackburn with Darwen	0	x	40	x	40
Blackpool	0	x	230	0	240
Bolton	0	10	30	0	40
Bury	0	0	40	0	40
Cheshire East	0	0	0	0	0

Pupil referral units: Number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) without a statement by age[1,2] As at January 2010, in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils with SEN without a statement aged[3]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
Cheshire West and Chester	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	20	0	20
Halton	0	0	0	0	0
Knowsley	0	0	60	0	60
Lancashire	0	10	220	0	230
Liverpool	0	10	30	0	40
Manchester	0	10	120	0	130
Oldham	0	0	40	0	40
Rochdale	0	10	60	0	60
Salford	0	x	70	0	70
Sefton	0	x	60	0	60
St. Helens	0	0	10	0	10
Stockport	0	0	70	0	70
Tameside	0	10	20	0	30
Trafford	0	0	10	0	10
Warrington	0	0	20	0	20
Wigan	0	0	50	0	50
Wirral	0	0	50	0	50
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	20	470	0	490
Barnsley	0	x	50	0	50
Bradford	0	10	90	0	100
Calderdale	0	x	10	0	10
Doncaster	0	10	60	0	60
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	0	0	x	0	x
Kirklees	0	0	40	0	40
Leeds	0	x	70	0	70
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	x	0	x
North Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	60	0	60
Rotherham	0	0	x	0	x
Sheffield	0	0	50	0	50
Wakefield	0	0	30	0	30
York	0	0	20	0	20
East midlands	0	40	680	0	720
Derby	0	10	150	0	160
Derbyshire	0	0	140	0	140
Leicester	0	10	10	0	20
Leicestershire	0	x	40	0	40
Lincolnshire	0	10	20	0	20
Northamptonshire	0	0	160	0	160
Nottingham	0	10	60	0	60
Nottinghamshire	0	10	100	0	110
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	x	50	960	x	1,020
Birmingham	x	20	220	0	250
Coventry	0	0	50	0	50
Dudley	0	x	10	0	10
Herefordshire	0	0	40	0	40
Sandwell	0	x	70	x	80
Shropshire	0	0	40	0	40
Solihull	0	x	50	0	50
Staffordshire	0	10	140	x	150
Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	10	0	10
Telford and Wrekin	0	x	110	0	110
Walsall	0	0	30	0	30
Warwickshire	0	10	100	0	100
Wolverhampton	0	x	80	0	80
Worcestershire	0	10	30	0	30
East of England	0	20	650	10	680
Bedford	0	x	50	0	60
Cambridgeshire	0	0	20	0	20
Central Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	10	140	x	150
Hertfordshire	0	0	180	0	180
Luton	0	0	20	0	20
Norfolk	0	0	70	0	70
Peterborough	0	x	50	0	60
Southend-on-Sea	0	x	40	0	40
Suffolk	0	x	60	x	70
Thurrock	0	x	20	0	20
London	0	70	1,600	90	1,760
Inner London	0	30	650	80	760
Camden	0	x	30	0	30
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	0	0	50	0	50
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	x	120	0	130
Haringey	0	0	60	x	60
Islington	0	10	30	0	30
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	20	0	20
Lambeth	0	10	40	10	60
Lewisham	0	0	10	0	10
Newham	0	0	40	70	110
Southwark	0	10	20	0	30
Tower Hamlets	0	0	170	0	170
Wandsworth	0	0	60	0	60
Westminster	0	0	20	0	20
Outer London	0	40	950	10	1,000
Barking and Dagenham	0	10	150	x	160
Barnet	0	0	10	10	20
Bexley	0	20	80	0	100
Brent	0	x	100	x	100
Bromley	0	0	70	0	70
Croydon	0	10	60	x	70
Ealing	0	0	80	0	80
Enfield	0	0	20	0	20
Greenwich	0	0	80	0	80
Harrow	0	x	20	0	20
Havering	0	0	50	0	50
Hillingdon	0	0	10	0	10
Hounslow	0	x	50		50
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	10	0	10
Merton	0	0	20	0	20
Redbridge	0	0	70	0	70
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	10	0	10
Sutton	0	0	60	0	60
Waltham Forest	0	0	10	0	10

Pupil referral units: Number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) without a statement by age[1, 2]: As at January 2010, in England, by local authority

	Number of pupils with SEN without a statement aged[2]				
	Under 5	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 19+*	*All ages*
South East	0	20	1,170	10	1,200
Bracknell Forest	0	x	30	0	30
Brighton and Hove	0	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	80	x	80
East Sussex	0	x	60	0	60
Hampshire	0	x	140	0	140
Isle of Wight	0	0	x	0	x
Kent	0	x	260	0	270
Medway	0	0	60	0	60
Milton Keynes	0	x	60	0	60
Oxfordshire	0	0	60	0	60
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	0	x	110	0	120
Slough	0	0	70	0	70
Southampton	0	0	50	0	50
Surrey	0	10	70	x	80
West Berkshire	0	0	30	10	40
West Sussex	0	0	80	0	80
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	10	0	10
Wokingham	0	0	10	0	10
South West	0	10	520	x	540
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	0	0	30	0	30
Bristol, City of	0	0	30	0	30
Cornwall	0	0	20	0	20
Devon	0	0	40	0	40
Dorset	0	0	30	0	30
Gloucestershire	0	10	40	0	40
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	0	0	30	0	30
Plymouth	0	0	110	0	110
Poole	0	0	20	0	20
Somerset	0	x	50	0	50
South Gloucestershire	0	x	30	x	40
Swindon	0	x	40	0	40
Torbay	0	0	20	0	20
Wiltshire	0	0	40	x	50

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils. Includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.
[2] Age as at 31 August 2009.
x=Fewer than 5 pupils.
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Pupil Referral Unit Census

Special Educational Needs: Teachers

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to improve the training of teachers in special educational needs. [6467]

Sarah Teather: The Government are committed to raising the status of the teaching profession and to moving to a high quality system of teacher recruitment and training.

I am reviewing existing policies and programmes to make sure that they support our commitment to high quality teacher training including in respect of pupils with special educational needs.

Teachers are able to increase their awareness of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) through information available to them about children with SEN as a result of the SEN Information Act 2008. The second report, following this Act, will be published in October 2010 and brings together information about children with SEN in one place.

Young People: Antisocial Behaviour

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what spending changes he plans to make to the Youth Taskforce budget; what his policy is on future Youth Taskforce funding; and if he will make a statement. [4078]

Tim Loughton: The spending review, to be concluded in the autumn, will set out the forward framework for the Department's spending and priorities and any Youth Taskforce funding will be considered as part of that process.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Food

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations his Department has received on the effects on poor people in developing countries of fluctuations in food prices arising from trading on the food derivatives market. [9873]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not received any specific representations.

International Assistance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's objectives are for the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals in New York on water and sanitation. [9987]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK's objective for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit is to secure international agreement on an action agenda for achieving the MDGs by 2015. "The coalition: our programme for government" clearly states that we will prioritise aid spending on programmes to ensure everyone has access to clean water and sanitation.

Overseas Aid

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to revise the partnership principles for the disbursement of UK aid. [9977]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have no current plans to revise the principles. I am considering this in the context of the Bilateral Aid Review.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on *(a)* his Department's budget and *(b)* levels of official development assistance; and if he will make a statement. [9978]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working closely with HM Treasury on plans for DFID's budget, which will be announced in the spending review on 20 October. The Government are committed to spend 0.7% of gross national income as official development assistance from 2013 and to enshrine this in law.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Glasgow Central constituency, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK claim carer's allowance. [10024]

Maria Miller: The requested information is as follows:

	Total entitled in GB	*Scotland*	*Glasgow Central*
November 2009	969,290	99,670	c 1,810

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to undertake a review of the carer's allowance system. [10025]

Maria Miller: The Government recognise that the UK's 6 million carers play an indispensable role in looking after family members or friends who need support.

We have set out our commitment to simplify the benefit system in order to improve work incentives and encourage responsibility and fairness. We will consider carefully the needs of carers as we develop our thinking on welfare reform.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on those carers in receipt of carer's allowance of the *(a)* programme of expenditure reduction and *(b)* proposed increase in the rate of value added tax announced in the June 2010 Budget. [10125]

Maria Miller: The Government took a number of steps in the Budget which will have an impact on carers receiving carer's allowance, including announcing that we would not take back the 1.5% advance in benefit rates that the previous Administration had intended and would instead uprate benefits, including carer's allowance, by CPI in future years as a measure of inflation. As we take further steps to reduce the fiscal deficit, we will continue to consider the impact carefully, while protecting those who are most vulnerable.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present Administration. [6443]

Chris Grayling: The Department's spend on official photographs of Ministers since the present Administration's formation is £1,090 (excluding VAT).

The average bi-monthly spend for the previous Administration (2009-10) was £2,022.19 (excluding VAT).

Official photography is defined as all photographs taken for official use, including head-shots of Ministers and photographs of events and visits at which Ministers appear.

Departmental Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6553]

Chris Grayling: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees on temporary contracts *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies had on the latest date for which figures are available. [5931]

Chris Grayling: The number of employees on temporary contracts on 31 March 2010 in the Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is set out in the following table.

	Number of temporary employees
Agency	
Jobcentre Plus	3,005
Pensions Disability and Carers Service	166
Corporate and Shared Services	166
NDPB	
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	104
Health and Safety Executive	0
Independent Living Fund	11
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority	147
Remploy Limited	196
The Pensions Advisory Service	1
The Pensions Regulator	38
Pensions Ombudsman and Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman	2
Pension Protection Fund	33
Total	3,869

Note:
Employee numbers are expressed as full-time equivalent and rounded to the nearest whole number. Temporary employees are as defined by the Office for National Statistics ie employed on a casual basis or on a fixed term contract of 12 months or less.

Disability Living Allowance

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency. [9791]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Employment and support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Liverpool, Wavertree	890	5,610	7,620

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5.IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source: DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Employment and Support Allowance: Arthritis

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many claimants of employment and support allowance who were receiving treatment for rheumatoid arthritis during the assessment phase of their claim were requested to attend *(a)* a work capability assessment and *(b)* a work-focused interview in the latest period for which figures are available; [7135]

(2) how many employment and support allowance claimants in receipt of treatment for rheumatoid arthritis during the assessment phase of their claim have been recorded as having attended *(a)* a work capability assessment and *(b)* a work-focused interview in the latest period for which figures are available. [7136]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Employment Schemes

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 434-35W, on employment schemes: west midlands, what his definition of appropriate support is in relation to measures designed to support people to find employment. [9485]

Chris Grayling: We aim to have the work programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. Until then, the Government will ensure back-to-work support is in place.

Currently, there is a wide range of programmes on offer to our customers with contracts ending at different times.

We are working with our delivery partners to agree how to move from the current support to an integrated programme of support available to all customers seeking work.

We have already written to relevant existing delivery partners and have started 'one to one' discussions with them to discuss what this means for them. We will be making further announcements in due course.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who would have received the two-year jobseeker's guarantee this year had it not been cancelled. [5260]

Chris Grayling: The two year jobseeker's guarantee was due to start in April 2011 and therefore was not due to help anyone this year.

The Government aim to have the new work programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. The work programme will be an integrated package of support providing flexible help for people who find themselves out of work based on individual need rather than benefit claimed.

In order to ensure that as many people benefit from the work programme as quickly as possible the Government will be phasing out many of the existing programmes and folding them into the work programme.

Flexible Working: Disability

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to give disabled people the right to request flexible working. [5596]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, employers have a duty to make 'reasonable adjustments' to ensure that disabled people are not put at a substantial disadvantage compared to non-disabled people.

Reasonable adjustments can include adjustments to working patterns, number of hours worked, or any other of the employer's working arrangements to avoid the disabled person being put at a substantial disadvantage compared to non-disabled people.

Because of this, there are no plans to specifically extend the right to request flexible working to disabled people. However, the Government have committed to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees. I will consult on plans to achieve this later in the year.

Funeral Payments: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in funeral payments in *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough in each year since 2000. [8217]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the following table. Information at borough level is unavailable.

Funeral payment gross expenditure by financial year

	West midlands (£ million)
2003-04	5.4
2004-05	5.5
2005-06	5.4
2006-07	5.5
2007-08	5.6
2008-09	6.0

Funeral payment gross expenditure by financial year

	West midlands (£ million)
2009-10	6.0

Notes:

1. The west midlands has been interpreted as the Government Office Region of that name.
2. Gross expenditure includes awards made after re-consideration or appeal.
3. The gross expenditure has been rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.
4. Data for 2000-01 to 2002-03 for the West Midlands Government Office Region are not available, because one Social Fund district then straddled the border between the West Midlands and the East Midlands Government Office regions. (Data are only available by Social Fund district.)

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average size of funeral payments made to applicants in *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough has been since 2005. [8218]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the following table. Information at borough level is unavailable.

Funeral payment average award by financial year

	West midlands (£)
2005-06	1,176
2006-07	1,229
2007-08	1,292
2008-09	1,320
2009-10	1,351

Notes:

1. The west midlands has been interpreted as the Government Office Region of that name.
2. Figures include awards made after re-consideration or appeal.
3. The average award has been rounded to the nearest £1.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Future Jobs Fund

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his evaluation of the future jobs fund will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [9563]

Chris Grayling: Results of the impacts for one year young person's guarantee outcomes will be available in early 2012. We are planning to repeat the impact assessments for two year young person's guarantee outcomes and the results will be available in early 2013.

Government Departments: Recruitment

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people previously unemployed for one year or more found employment in each Government Department in each of the last five years. [5054]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Housing Benefit

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in West Lancashire constituency in households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [5627]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency in households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [6189]

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in Birmingham, Erdington constituency in households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [6942]

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in Lewisham East constituency in households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [6590]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [6648]

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the level of over-occupation in social sector housing where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in East Lothian constituency. [7184]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the level of over-occupation in social sector housing where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit in Bristol East constituency. [7238]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. The Department for Work and Pensions does not collect information on dwelling size for all housing benefit recipients.

The English Housing Survey in 2008-09 showed that 258,000 (6.7%) of all social rented households and 164,000 (5.4%) of all private rented households in England were over-occupied as measured by the bedroom standard.

The bedroom standard is essentially the difference between the number of bedrooms needed to avoid undesirable sharing (given the number and ages of household members and their relationships to each other) and the number of bedrooms actually available to the household.

Source:

Figures on over-occupation are taken from 'Table 6: Overcrowding and under-occupation by tenure' from the English Housing Survey, 2008-09

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, how many of his Department's customers received the maximum local housing allowance rate of £1,800 per week in March 2010. [7865]

Steve Webb: At March 2010 there were fewer than 100 customers who received the maximum local housing allowance rate. All these customers are located in the central London broad rental market area.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Liverpool, Walton constituency receive housing benefit of more than *(a)* £200 per week for a one bedroom property, *(b)* £290 per week for a two bedroom property, £340 per week for a three bedroom property and *(d)* £400 per week for a four bedroom property. [9981]

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance recipients in City of Durham constituency are receiving *(a)* over £400 per week for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* over £340 per week for a three bedroom property, *(c)* over £290 per week for a two bedroom property and *(d)* over £200 per week for a one bedroom property. [8472]

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Enfield North constituency receive housing benefit of more than *(a)* £200 a week for a one bedroom property, *(b)* £290 a week for a two bedroom property, *(c)* £340 a week for a three bedroom property and *(d)* £400 a week for a four bedroom or more property. [9956]

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency receive housing benefit of more than *(a)* £200 a week for a one bedroom property, *(b)* £290 a week for a two bedroom property, *(c)* £340 a week for a three bedroom property and *(d)* £400 a week for a four or five bedroom property; [9625]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of people in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency in receipt of weekly local housing allowance of over *(a)* £400 for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* £340 for a three bedroom property, *(c)* £290 for a two bedroom property and *(d)* £200 for a one bedroom property in 2010-11. [10030]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Members to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Bishop Auckland (Helen Goodman) on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 849-50W.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how many local housing allowance (LHA) claimants there was a shortfall between their amount of LHA and actual rent charged; and what the average shortfall was between actual rents and the rate of LHA paid *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each English region for such people in the latest period for which figures are available. [10027]

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of claimants of local housing allowance in *(a)* England and *(b)* Doncaster make an additional payment to cover the difference between benefit received and rent paid; and what estimate he has made of the average weekly payment made by such claimants in the latest period for which figures are available. [8966]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at sub-national level.

In August 2009, in Great Britain, among customers receiving housing benefit under the local housing allowance arrangements, 48% had a shortfall of £23 per week on average. This relates to shortfalls caused by a customer's contractual rent being higher than the appropriate local housing allowance rate.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioner households are in receipt of local housing allowance in each local authority area in England. [10130]

Steve Webb: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Ashton-in-Makerfield

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age who are unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants receiving housing benefit in (i) Makerfield constituency and (ii) the Wigan metropolitan borough council area. [6048]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at constituency level.

The available information is in the table. Information on whether a claimant of HB is in work or unemployed is not available.

Housing benefit (HB) claimants in Wigan metropolitan borough council area by age group and private/social rented sector split, March 2010

	Number
All HB claimants	24,570
Working age HB claimants	15,910
Elderly HB claimants	8,670
Social rented sector claimants	18,010
Private rented sector claimants	6,570

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Data are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. March 2010 represents the latest data held.
4. Social tenants include RSL (registered social landlord) tenants.
5. Working age is defined as claimants in receipt of the following passported benefits, as recorded on the local authority computer system: income support, jobseeker's allowance (income-based) or employment and support allowance (income-based). If the claim is not passported then a claimant is counted as working age if they are aged under 60.
6. Elderly is defined as claimants in receipt of the following passported benefit, as recorded on the LA computer system: pension credit (guarantee credit). If the claim is not passported then a claimant is counted as elderly if they are aged 60 or over.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE).

The available information on housing benefit recipients is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_jun10.xls

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Housing Benefit: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in housing benefit to residents in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [7854]

Steve Webb: Information on housing benefit expenditure at parliamentary constituency level is not available.

The available information for the London borough of Bexley is in the following tables:

Bexley housing benefit expenditure since 2005-06 in £ millions, cash terms

	£ million
2005-06	52.9
2006-07	56.9
2007-08	58.8
2008-09	62.9
2009-10	74.8

Bexley housing benefit expenditure since 2005-06 in £ millions, 2010-11 prices

	£ million
2005-06	60.2
2006-07	62.9
2007-08	63.2
2008-09	66.0
2009-10	77.0

Notes:

1. Figures are presented to the nearest £0.1 million/£100,000.
2. Figures include all housing benefit, whether funded by central Government or by local authorities.
3. Figures for 2009-10 are provisional outturn.
4. Figures have been converted to 2010-11 prices using GDP deflators from HM Treasury which are consistent with the June 2010 Budget Report.
5. Figures are available on the DWP website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/hbctb_exp.xls

Source: Local authority subsidy returns.

Housing Benefit: Jobseeker's Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people with children currently in receipt of housing benefit have been on jobseeker's allowance for a year or more in each UK constituency. [7740]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobcentres and Jobcentre Plus offices have telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870. [5908]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many jobcentres and Jobcentre Plus offices have telephone lines with the prefix (a) 0845 and (b) 0870. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

The information requested is in the table below:

The number of customer facing sites and offices which have numbers prefixed with (a) 0845 and (b) 0870

	Total
(a) Sites using 0845	852
(b) Sites using 0870	2

Source:
Jobcentre Plus

The table identifies the number of sites using numbers prefixed by 0845/0870. This does not directly correlate to the number of actual 0845/0870 numbers in use.

Where 0845 numbers are used to deliver customer services, where possible alternative methods of contacting us are also provided. For example, online services for vacancy searching and submission, Job Points in Jobcentres for vacancy searching and "warm" phones are provided in Jobcentres which can be used to contact benefit enquiry lines.

The Department does not receive any income through its use of 0800 or 0845 telephone numbers. This use of 0800 and 0845 numbers is a balance between fairness and accessibility for our customers and value for money for the tax payer.

I hope that this is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Greater London

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months by 2013 in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency. [9990]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of people who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency by 2013; and how many of those are lone parents. [9792]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency. [9989]

Chris Grayling: In May 2010 there were 140 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Hornchurch and Upminster.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents resident in Peterborough constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance on 1 April in each year since 2008; and if he will make a statement. [10098]

Chris Grayling: Figures are provided in the following table:

Lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Peterborough

1 April each year	*Number*
2008	30
2009	90
2010	180

Note:
All figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

The increase in the number of lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Peterborough reflects a national trend that is a consequence of the change in the eligibility rules for income support. In October 2008 a lone parent could claim income support on grounds of being a lone parent until his or her youngest child reached 16. From November 2008 this has been reduced in steps to 10, and, under current legislation, will be further reduced to seven in October 2010. Budget 2010 announced that this age limit will be further lowered to the point when the youngest child turns school age.

The policy is an important part of the strategy to combat child poverty. The need to increase the rate of parental employment needs to be balanced against their caring responsibilities, and accordingly the jobseeker's allowance regime has been adapted for lone parents to ensure that those with children under the age of 13 can restrict their availability to school hours, and that non-availability of child care can constitute good cause for turning down an offer of employment.

Maternity Benefits

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers for their second or subsequent child in Lewisham East constituency in 2009-10. [6584]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in respect of a second or subsequent child in 2009-10. [6644]

Steve Webb: A total of 274,000 Sure Start maternity grants were awarded in Great Britain in 2009-10. The exact number of awards for a second or subsequent maternity is not available, but is estimated to be 52% of all awards, around 143,000.

The number of awards made in 2009-10 is available by Government Office region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area only, not by constituency.

Note:

Both numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:

For total number of awards: Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of residents of Liverpool, Walton constituency in receipt of *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* pension credits who will no longer have their full mortgage interest payment covered by support for mortgage interest payments under the proposals in the June 2010 Budget. [9979]

Steve Webb: This information is not available because the Department does not collect management information on the actual interest rates that apply to support for mortgage interest customers' loans.

Pension Credit: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the West midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency claim pension credit. [8202]

Steve Webb: The information is in the following table.

Area	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
West Midlands Government Office region	348,000	279,500
Dudley local authority	23,130	18,030
Dudley North parliamentary constituency	6,720	5,200

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Bristol

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Bristol North West constituency receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [7791]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Bristol North West	18,850	5,230	4,370

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Edinburgh

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Edinburgh East constituency are in receipt of *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [8196]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table:

Number

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Edinburgh East	14,200	5,030	4,370

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009.

Pensioners: Greater London

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency. [9991]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Hornchurch and Upminster	22,260	5,150	4,270

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State Pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [9793]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Liverpool, Wavertree parliamentary constituency	*Number*
State pension recipients	14,460
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	6,780
Pension credit household recipients	5,650

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of awards of *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance were awarded on appeal in each of the last three years. [8117]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following tables:

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total DLA decisions made	964,000	967,000	957,000
DLA appeals heard by the Appeal Service	57,000	53,000	51,000
DLA appeals found in the customers favour	26,000	23,000	21,000
Proportion of DLA appeals found in the customers favour of the DLA appeals heard (percentage)	45.6	43.4	41.2
Proportion of DLA appeals found in the customers favour of the total DLA decisions made (percentage)	2.7	2.4	2.2

Notes:
1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Each year covers decisions recorded on the DLA computer system within the period of 1 April to 31 March.
3. Total DLA decisions made include new claims (NR and SR), renewals, supersessions (including Secretary of State supersessions, supersessions age 3 and age 5).
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions—RDA60209 report—DLA Management Information Statistics

ESA claim start month	*Fit for work*	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*% of fit for work with an appeal heard (to date)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*% decision in favour of appellant*	*% DWP decision upheld*
October 2008	3,500	1,200	35	500	700	40	60
November 2008	17,000	5,800	34	2,300	3,500	40	60
December 2008	14,700	4,900	33	1,900	2,900	40	60
January 2009	20,500	6,300	31	2,400	3,800	39	61
February 2009	19,300	4,900	25	2,000	3,000	40	60
March 2009	22,800	5,000	22	1,900	3,000	39	61

ESA claim start month	*Fit for work*	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*% of fit for work with an appeal heard (to date)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*% decision in favour of appellant*	*% DWP decision upheld*
Total	97,800	28,000	29	11,000	17,000	39	61

Notes:

1. The data presented in this publication combine three main data sources: benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) covering new ESA claims that started between October 2008 to August 2009; functional assessment data sourced from ATOS Healthcare covering assessments completed up to February 2010; and appeals data sourced from Tribunals Service covering appeals heard up to February 2010 (and which link to ESA claims up to the end of March 2009).

2. The table provides national data for all ESA claims, up to the end of March 2009 where person claiming has been found fit for work, who subsequently appeals the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by Tribunals Service the end of February 2010. ESA was introduced in October 2008 so data are available only from this date onwards. The table shows that for all ESA claims received between October 2008 and March 2009, there were around 28,000 appeals. Of these, 11,000 or 39% found in favour of the appellant.

3.Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted Tribunals Service and heard, we still expect there are more appeals that have not yet been heard for these early cohorts of ESA claims. These figures should continue to be treated as emerging findings and not final at this stage.

4. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the work capability assessment—the statistics were last updated in April 2010 and published in the report 'Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment: Official Statistics: April 2010', a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The information is also available on the internet at the following address: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of applications for *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance were rejected in West Suffolk constituency in the last 12 months. [8118]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in West Suffolk constituency have made claims for *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance in the last 12 months. [8119]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many approvals were granted of funding from the Independent Living Fund to persons working more than 16 hours per week in (a) the west midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough in each of the last five years; [8417]

(2) how many applications to the Independent Living Fund were made by persons working more than 16 hours per week in *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough in each of the last five years; [8418]

(3) how many applications were made to the Independent Living Fund by residents in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency in each of the last five years. [8419]

Maria Miller: The available information is in the tables.

Applications made by and approvals granted to people in remunerative employment or self-employment for at least 16 hours a week

	2008-09		*2009-10*	
	Applications made	*Approvals granted*	*Applications made*	*Approvals granted*
West midlands	2	2	2	0
Dudley metropolitan borough council	0	0	0	0

Notes:

1. Figures are only available from 2008-09.

2. Applications rejected at the initial vetting stage are not recorded on the system.

Source:

Independent Living Fund

Applications made to the independent living fund by residents in the West midlands and Dudley metropolitan borough council

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
West midlands	281	394	468	148	308
Dudley metropolitan borough council	14	23	21	5	9

Note:

1. Applications rejected at the initial vetting stage are not recorded on the system.

2. Figures are not available for Dudley North constituency as applications are recorded by local authority not parliamentary constituency.

Source:

Independent Living Fund

Social Security Benefits: Liverpool

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Liverpool, Walton constituency are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* basic state pension and *(d)* pension credit; and how many people in that constituency have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months. [9980]

Maria Miller: The information available is in the table. The jobseeker's allowance figure shows those in receipt for more than 12 months.

Liverpool, Walton parliamentary constituency	*Number*
Disability living allowance	10,450
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	7,770
State pension	15,510
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	9,230
Pension credit household recipients	7,590
Jobseeker's allowance	1,245

Notes:

1. Case load figures for all except jobseeker's allowance are rounded to the nearest 10. Jobseeker's allowance case load figures are rounded to the nearest five.

2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.

3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.

4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.

Liverpool, Walton parliamentary constituency	*Number*

5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
6. Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance figure includes people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit only.

Sources:

1. DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009 for disability living allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, state pension, pension credit.
2. NOMIS Jobseeker's Allowance 100% data as at June 2010 for jobseeker's allowance.

Temporary Employment

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to assist part-time workers who want to move into full-time employment. [9732]

Chris Grayling: The Government's objective is to encourage a dynamic and flexible labour market in which more people can find employment, whether full or part-time, that meets their particular needs and circumstances. Key to this will be the measures set out in the Budget to secure a sustained, private sector-led recovery in the economy and employment, through tackling the deficit, improving competitiveness and supporting business by cutting regulation and taxes. The Government are also exploring ways to ensure that people on benefit keep more of their earnings when they move into work or increase the hours they work.

In addition, the Next Step service (our new universal integrated adult careers service which starts from August) will offer advice to individuals on how to progress in their careers. This would include helping them overcome barriers to working full-time, such as accessing child care, or where their skills were a barrier to gaining full-time work, how they could get the necessary skills through training or development activities.

Unemployment Benefits: Drugs

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many problem drug users resident in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* Brighton and Hove received each of the out-of-work benefits in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [6572]

Chris Grayling: Drug and alcohol addiction is one of the most damaging root causes of poverty, and helping people who are trapped on benefits through drug and alcohol addiction so that they can recover and find employment is a top priority for the Government.

We do not have data for the number of problem drug users at the geographical level requested for all out-of-work benefits. However we do have data for incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance where the main disabling condition is listed as drug abuse. We also have estimates for the number of working age claimants who are problem drug users in England.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants with the main disabling condition of drug abuse

As at November	*Great Britain*	*Brighton and Hove*	*East Sussex*	*West Sussex*
2005	48,200	400	360	290
2006	49,080	440	370	300
2007	51,220	480	340	310
2008	49,790	480	350	340
2009	41,230	390	280	280

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants with the main disabling condition of drug abuse

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Medical condition is not available for the other out-of-work benefits.
3. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008, which accounts for some of the drop in numbers between November 2008 and November 2009.
4. Great Britain total includes a small number of cases resident abroad.
5. East Sussex total includes Eastbourne, Hastings, Rother, and Wealden.
6. West Sussex total includes Adur, Arun, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham, Mid Sussex, and Worthing.
7. Drug or alcohol dependency does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work. This assesses the effects of a person's condition on their ability to carry out a number of everyday activities relevant to work. People with a recorded diagnosis of alcohol or drug dependency may have other diagnoses, for example mental illness, which result in their incapacity for work. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation:
http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Estimated number of working-age claimants who are problem drug users by benefit type in England in 2006

	Number
Jobseeker's Allowance	66,000
Incapacity Benefit	87,000
Income Support	146,000
Disability Living Allowance	25,000
Total in receipt of one or more of the above benefits	267,000

Notes:

1. The figures are derived from estimates of the number of problem drug users on each benefit. They do not record if problem drug use is the reason for the benefit claim.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
3. The sum of the component benefits is greater than the total because claimants can be in receipt of one or more benefits at the same time.
4. Problem drug users are defined as those who use opiates (e.g. heroin) and/or crack cocaine and include those who are in treatment for their dependency.
5. Disability living allowance can be claimed by people who are both in and out of work.
6. The copy of the working paper by Hay and Bauld can be found in the House of Commons Library, and can also be accessed at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP46.pdf

Source:

Population estimates of problematic drug users in England who access Department for Work and Pensions benefits: A feasibility study, Working Paper No. 46, Hay, G. and Bauld, L. 2008

Unemployment

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in St Albans district in receipt of out-of-work benefits as a result of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug dependency. [6886]

Chris Grayling: Drug and alcohol addiction is one of the most damaging root causes of poverty, and helping people who are trapped on benefits through drug and alcohol addiction so that they can recover and find employment is a top priority for the Government.

A breakdown by medical condition is only available for incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance. The information is in the table. Information by medical condition is not available for the other out-of-work benefits: jobseeker's allowance, income support, and employment and support allowance.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in St Albans local authority with a diagnosis of alcoholism or drug abuse: November 2009

	Number
Alcoholism	50
Drug Abuse	40

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The figures in the table relate to the latest available national data.
3. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008.
4. Drug or alcohol dependency does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work. This assesses the effects of a person's condition on their ability to carry out a number of everyday activities relevant to work. People with a recorded diagnosis of alcohol or drug dependency may have other diagnoses, for example mental illness, which result in their incapacity for work. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation: http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of the adult further education budget was spent on 19 to 24-year olds studying *(a)* Level 3 programmes on (i) A-levels (ii) vocational Level 3 qualifications and (iii) other Level 3 programmes, *(b)* Level 2 programmes on (i) GCSEs, (ii) vocational Level 2 qualifications and (iii) other qualifications, *(c)* Level 4 programmes not funded by HEFCE, *(d)* skills for life and *(e)* and other important learning categories in the latest year for which figures are available; [8728]

(2) what proportion of the adult further education budget was spent on 25-year-olds and over studying *(a)* Level 3 programmes on (i) A-levels, (ii) vocational Level 3 qualifications and (iii) other Level 3 programmes, *(b)* Level 2 programmes on (i) GCSEs, (ii) vocational Level 2 qualifications and (iii) other qualifications, *(c)* Level 4 programmes not funded by HEFCE, *(d)* skills for life and *(e)* and other important learning categories in the latest year for which figures are available. [8729]

Mr Hayes: This information is held by the Skills Funding Agency. I have asked the chief executive of Skills Funding, Geoff Russell, to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 14 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Questions, UIN 8728 and UIN 8729, tabled on 12 July.

The attached analysis includes data from the Learner Responsive data returns only. There are two tables—one shows information for 19-24 year olds and the other shows 25+. The data is for the 2008/09 academic year (August 2008 to July 2009), the most recent year for which complete data is available.

The PQs ask for data broken down by categories which are not mutually exclusive. For example, some GCSE provision is classed as Skills for Life. The spreadsheet shows the full extent of the overlap.

19 to 24 summary

Academic year 2008/09	*Actual spend (£000)*
19+ FE participation	1,487,090

2008/09 academic year

	19-24 summary (£000)	*Of which: Skills for Life (£000)*	*19-24 summary excl. Skills for Life included under GCSE, other level 2 and level 1 (£000)*	*19-24 summary based on actual spend 2008/09 (percentage)*	*19-24 summary excluding Skills for Life for GCSE, other level 2 and level 1 (percentage)*
A/AS/A2 funding	20,280	—	20,280	1.4	1.4
Vocational level 3 funding	71,373	—	71,373	4.8	4.8
Other level 3 funding	155,185	—	155,185	10.4	10.4
GCSE funding	7,972	6,084	1,888	0.5	0.1
Vocational level 2 funding	55,508	—	55,508	3.7	3.7
Other level 2 funding	82,407	12,538	69,869	5.5	4.7
Level 4 funding	4,824	—	4,824	0.3	0.3
Skills for Life[1]	87,425	—	87,425	5.9	5.9
Level 1 funding	135,976	68,803	67,173	9.1	4.5
Other level funding	12,504	—	12,504	0.8	0.8
Total 19 to 24	633,454	87,425	546,029	42.6	36.7

[1] Skills for Life also contained within GCSE, other level 2 and level 1.

25+ summary

Academic year 2008/09	*Actual spend (£000)*
19+ FE participation	1,487,090

	2008/09 academic year				
	25+ summary (£000)	*Of which: Skills for Life (£000)*	*25+ summary excl. Skills for Life included under GCSE, other level 2 and level 1 (£000)*	*25+ summary based on actual spend 2008/09 (percentage)*	*25+ summary excluding Skills for Life for GCSE, other level 2 and level 1 (percentage)*
A/AS/A2 funding	5,846	—	5,846	0.4	0.4
Vocational level 3 funding	78,027	—	78,027	5.2	5.2
Other level 3 funding	112,652	—	112,652	7.6	7.6
GCSE funding	11,487	8,058	3,429	0.8	0.2
Vocational level 2 funding	73,918	—	73,918	5.0	5.0
Other level 2 funding	225,282	33,274	192,008	15.1	12.9
Level 4 funding	21,607	—	21,607	1.5	1.5
Skills for Life[1]	287,857	—	287,857	19.4	19.4
Level 1 funding	388,502	246,525	141,977	26.1	9.5
Other level funding	25,603	—	25,603	1.7	1.7
Total 25+	1,230,781	287,857	942,924	82.8	63.4

[1] Skills for Life also contained within GCSE, other level 2 and level 1.

Adult Education: Incapacity Benefit

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to provide a remission of course fees for adult learners in receipt of incapacity benefit. [9985]

Mr Hayes: Remission of course fees or waivers are only available for people in receipt of means-tested benefits. As incapacity benefit is a non-means-tested and also (after 28 weeks) a taxable benefit, it does not fall into this category. Students in receipt of incapacity benefit who also receive means-tested benefits, such as income support or housing benefit, may be eligible for a remission in course fees.

Colleges also have discretion to waive fees for students in receipt of incapacity benefit.

Apprentices: Construction

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to assist the construction sector to create and retain local *(a)* jobs and *(b)* apprenticeships. [9543]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Government's priorities are to address the budget deficit and the challenge of creating growth across the economy, in order to create conditions where investment in construction can start to grow, and more jobs can be created. There are no short-term fixes.

The Government are keen to continue working with sectors, to develop effective strategies and programmes to support apprenticeship training. Our decision to redeploy £150 million of Train to Gain funding to create 50,000 high-quality, employer-led apprenticeship places is just the beginning.

This Government are committed to increasing the number of apprenticeships—in particular, advanced and higher apprenticeships. To build an advanced economy we need advanced skills in industries such as construction. Sector Skills Councils (SSCs), such as ConstructionSkills, have a key role encouraging more businesses to offer apprenticeship places. We expect the Skills Funding Agency to work with the National Apprenticeships Service, SSCs, employers, colleges and training organisations to make additional apprenticeship places available in sectors where there is local demand.

Apprentices: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to work with small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency to ensure the provision of apprenticeship places. [9699]

Mr Hayes: We are seeking to drive up the skills levels of the work force by directing public funding where it will bring the clearest benefits. Apprenticeships will play a vital role in this. We are determined to make it easier for companies of all sizes to take on apprentices so that more businesses can access the tremendous benefits they can bring to the workplace. That is why we are redirecting £150 million of Train to Gain in 2010-11 to create an additional 50,000 high quality employer-led places.

SMEs are our priority but we recognise that there is also a need to support large employers who are prepared to recruit and train apprentices. We fund apprenticeships on a national basis through the Skills Funding Agency—there are no regional allocations. The Skills Funding Agency works with the National Apprenticeships Service, employers, colleges and training organisations in Dudley and the west midlands to make additional apprenticeship places available where there is local demand.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will provide financial assistance to those construction companies whose contracts under the Building Schools for the Future programme have been cancelled. [9544]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* I have no plans to do so.

Business: EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 534W, on business: EU law, what the monetary value is of 31% of the total regulatory costs. [9744]

Mr Prisk: The proportion of planned new regulatory costs stemming from the EU from April 2010 onwards equates to 31% of the total average annual cost of all measures over the same period. The total average annual cost is £27.8 to £30.3 billion, as set out in the Government's second Forward Regulatory Programme, published in March this year.

Unfortunately, there was an error in my response to the previous PQ which asked me to make an estimate of the cost of EU regulation to British businesses. This should have read "the proportion of planned regulatory costs stemming from the EU from April 2010 onwards equates to 31%"—not between the period April 2010 to April 2011.

Business: Government Assistance

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the long-term future of the Grant for Business Investment scheme. [9470]

Mr Prisk: All Solutions for Business (SfB) products are currently being reviewed, including the Grant for Business Investment (GBI).

Civil Servants: Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the west midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8292]

Mr Davey: This Department is currently reviewing its location strategy and this will include decisions on potential relocation opportunities. The initial review is expected to be undertaken over the next six months and no decisions will be made on any final locations until then.

Construction

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the state of the construction industry; and what steps he plans to take to assist the industry. [9277]

Mr Prisk: Figures recently released by the Office for National Statistics show that construction output declined overall by 1% in the first quarter of 2010. There was an encouraging increase in new build, for the second quarter in succession since the end of the recession. Repair and maintenance had shown a strong increase in the third quarter of 2009, and the decline in the latest figures is likely to reflect work having been brought forward before the ending of lower rate VAT in January this year. New orders for construction rose by 1% over the previous quarter, with a strong increase in private housing and increases in all other sectors except private non-housing projects.

While publicly funded projects and infrastructure have shown resilience throughout the recent recession, the Government recognises that the balance must shift towards the private sector in the future. The Department's priorities include rebalancing the economy to encourage the investment necessary to stimulate growth in all sectors including construction. In addition, the Construction Innovation and Growth Team is looking at how the industry can best become equipped to meet the challenges of a low-carbon economy, and will report in the autumn.

Credit: Low Incomes

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the courts have cancelled a credit agreement under the unfair credit relationship provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 2006 in respect of those on lower incomes in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [9410]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading is aware of three cases since 1 July 2009 in which the court found that there was an unfair relationship and imposed remedies in favour of the borrower. In one case a linked contract for payment protection insurance was cancelled and in the other two cases the interest rate was reduced. In none of these cases was the credit agreement cancelled. There is no information as to the income level of the borrowers in these cases.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staffing costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5820]

Mr Davey: BIS is a new Department that was formed in June 2009. As required, it published its first Single Equality Scheme (SES) on 3 June 2010. The SES provides examples of the positive developments and achievements in BIS policy areas. It also sets out the objectives for the Department over the next three years. This shows how BIS intends to meet its obligations to the current equality legislation and to the Equality Act and public sector duties that come into force in April 2011.

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/s/10-811-single-equality-scheme.pdf

A total of £308,222 has been spent on promoting equality and diversity since the formation of the Department. This includes staffing costs of £261,989 for 4.7 FTE members of staff.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5726]

Mr Davey: The addresses of the Department's non-departmental public bodies can be found at the following link, under the "Public Bodies Directory" heading:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/annual-spending/page27140.html

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8331]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies spent on public consultations in each of the last five years; if he will place in the Library a copy of each consultation document issued; and if he will make a statement. [8715]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The vast majority of consultation exercises are run by policy teams with some support from the consultation co-ordinator, IT, communications teams and in some instances Government offices in the regions. Separating the costs of consultations from everyday departmental responsibilities would not therefore be possible except at disproportionate expense. Consultation documents are available on the internet at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations

(for recent BIS consultations)

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100216092443/http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/archived/index.html

(for archived BIS consultations)

http://www.nmo.bis.gov.uk/content.aspx?SC_ID=333

(For National Measurement Office consultations)

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/pro-policy/consult.htm

(for Intellectual Property Office consultations)

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/insolvencyprofessionandlegislation/con_doc_register/registerindex.htm

(for Insolvency Service consultations)

http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/funding/consultations/

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7997]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 82W.

In addition, the Government publish on a quarterly basis the expenses incurred by the most senior officials which includes use of the Government Car Service and other travel expenses.

East of England Development Agency: Internet

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what websites have been *(a)* operated and *(b)* commissioned by the East of England Development Agency in each year since its inception; what estimate he has made of (i) the number of unique visitors to and (ii) the average length of time each visitor spent on each such site in each such year; and if he will make a statement; [9729]

(2) how many staff of his Department maintain the East of England Development Agency erebusonline website; and what recent assessment he has made of the value for money derived from expenditure on the website. [9730]

Mr Prisk: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend for Harlow (Robert Halfon) on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column reference 236W.

No BIS staff are involved in the maintenance of the erebusonline website and the Department has not made any assessments of the value for money of the website.

Farnborough Airshow

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which countries have been invited by UK Trade and Investment to send delegates to the Farnborough International Airshow in 2010; which countries have accepted such invitations; which delegations attending that event will be composed of *(a)* military, *(b)* civil and *(c)* military and civil representatives; and if he will make a statement. [9724]

Mr Prisk: A total of 42 countries have been invited by the Government to send official delegations to the show and 37 have accepted an invitation and are expected to attend. The delegations will comprise military and civil representatives as provided in the following table.

Countries invited	*Accepted/declined*	*Military/civil representatives*
Algeria	Accepted	Military
Australia	Accepted	Civilian
Bahrain	Decline	—
Brazil	Accepted	Military
Brunei	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Canada	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Chile	Accepted	Military
China	Accepted	Military
Denmark	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Finland	Declined	—

Countries invited	Accepted/declined	Military/civil representatives
France	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Germany	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Greece	Accepted	Military and Civilian
India	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Indonesia	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Iraq	Accepted	Military
Italy	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Japan	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Jordan	Accepted	Military
Kuwait	Accepted	Military
Libya	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Malaysia	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Netherlands	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Norway	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Oman	Accepted	Military
Pakistan	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Peru	Declined	—
Poland	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Qatar	Accepted	Military
Republic of Korea	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Romania	Accepted	Military
South Africa	Declined	—
Saudi Arabia	Accepted	Military
Singapore	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Spain	Accepted	Military
Sweden	Accepted	Military
Switzerland	Accepted	Civilian
Thailand	Declined	—
Turkey	Accepted	Military and Civilian
UAE	Accepted	Military
USA	Accepted	Military and Civilian
Vietnam	Accepted	Military

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has provided to the 2010 Farnborough International Airshow for the purposes of *(a)* meeting the costs of the event and *(b)* hosting official delegations; and if he will make a statement. [9725]

Mr Prisk: No funding has been provided to the Farnborough International Airshow to meet the costs of the event. These are all met by the private sector.

No direct costs, other than staff time and related staff travel expenses, have been incurred on hosting official delegations.

Manufacturing Industries: Employment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase employment in the manufacturing sector; and if he will make a statement. [9278]

Mr Prisk: The Government are supporting employment in the manufacturing industry by creating a stable business environment that will give businesses the confidence they need to plan and invest for the future. We are doing this by creating a more supportive tax environment, freeing up credit through the banking system, reducing regulation, maximising the flexibility of the labour market and focusing on training and apprenticeships. For example, we have already redirected £150 million to create up to 50,000 extra apprenticeships, which will be workplace-based and employer-led.

In taking this forward, we are currently developing our thinking on manufacturing. It is clear we need a fresh approach which addresses the UK's competitive advantage and weaknesses in manufacturing including productivity, skills, R and D and exports. We are keen to ensure that we provide the best long-term environment in which manufacturing can grow, recognising the vital role it plays in the UK economy.

Motorsport and Aerospace

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take in response to the recommendations in the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2009-10, Full speed ahead: maintaining UK excellence in motorsport and aerospace, HC173. [9146]

Mr Prisk: The Department responded to the Committee in a Command Paper (CM 7867) in April 2010.

Nanotechnology

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of *(a)* cosmetics, *(b)* biocidal products, *(c)* food products and *(d)* human medicines marketed in the UK contained manufactured nanomaterials according to ISO definitions in the latest period for which figures are available; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that such products are safe for (i) consumers and (ii) the environment. [4823]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is as follows.

(a) We are not aware of the quantities of nanomaterials in cosmetics, but under the EU cosmetics directive cosmetic products are required to undergo a safety assessment which takes into account all aspects of the product use and content, including particle size of the ingredients. Under the EU cosmetics regulation which comes into force in 2013, the requirements for the safety assessment remain, but new requirements will be brought in to provide competent authorities with more information about products containing nanomaterials.

BIS is not the lead Department for the other areas of the hon. Member's question but we have received the following contributions from the relevant Departments.

(b) Biocidal products currently subject to specific national controls under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 are wood preservatives, public hygiene insecticides and insect repellents used on animals, rodenticides and antifouling coatings. There are approximately 2,000 biocidal products approved under the 1986 regulations. We are not aware that any of them contain manufactured nanomaterials, although many were approved years before the development of this relatively new technology. However, the national scheme is being progressively overtaken by a European scheme under the Biocidal Products Directive 98/8/EC, which is implemented in the UK by the Biocidal Products Regulations 2001 and equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland. Under the directive the scope of biocidal products is broadened to include disinfectants. Currently there are only three biocidal products authorised under the new biocides legislation, none of which contains nanomaterials. However, the number authorised under the new scheme will grow in future.

The existing national and EU schemes are broadly similar. Both afford high levels of protection to people and the environment. Active substances, the ingredients that have the biocidal effect, are subject to detailed toxicological and ecotoxicological assessment before they can be used in biocidal products. In addition, each biocidal product is subject to detailed assessment of risk, covering both people and the environment. Biocidal products are only authorised for supply and use when expert assessment and validation confirms that risks are very low, where appropriate conditions of authorisation are imposed.

(c) The Food Standards Agency is aware of only one food product on the UK market produced using nanotechnologies, a food supplement that consists of a nanoemulsion of co-enzyme Q10.

(d) Human medicines are regulated in the UK by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). It is not possible to give an accurate percentage of UK licensed medicinal products that contain nanomaterials as defined by ISO/TS 27687:2009 because that is only a recent definition. However, approximately 5% of licensed medicinal products in the UK contain colloidal silicon dioxide. This material has been used as a pharmaceutical powder flow aid for many years and the MHRA is not aware of any safety issues that have arisen following extensive clinical use.

Additionally, a small number of medicinal products (< 1%) contain nanoparticles in the form of liposomes (e.g. Caelyx, Myocet), polymer protein conjugates (e.g. PegIntron, Somavert), polymeric substances (e.g. Copaxone), suspensions (e.g. Rapamune, Emend) or viral-vectored vaccines. The manufacturing of these products often employs standard processes, which are well-described and understood and include the formation of mixed micelles (Liposomal Doxorubicin) or colloidal dispersions (Sonovue), the manufacture of large peptides by standard synthetic techniques or the manufacture of large molecules by standard polymerisation methods.

For human medicines the manufacture, sale, supply and importation of medicinal products into the UK is governed by Directive 2001/83/EC as amended. All medicines on the UK market have been assessed as acceptably efficacious and safe. Public health is safeguarded by the use of robust and evidence-based assessments for each medicinal product to ensure that the benefits to the patient outweigh any risks.

(i) and (ii) The Government have an extensive research programme to promote the responsible development and safe use of nanotechnologies. This work aims to improve understanding of the behaviour of nanomaterials and their effects on human health and the environment, in particular focusing on those materials and products which are currently available or close to the market, and includes collaboration in national and global initiatives.

National Composite Centre

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the future of the National Composite Centre; and if he will make a statement. [9334]

Mr Prisk: We fully support the creation of the National Composite Centre (NCC) in Bristol. It will play a key part in developing the UK's capability to manufacture composite structures quickly and cost effectively. The global shift from metal to lightweight extra-strong composite materials in sectors such as aerospace, wind energy and marine will provide vast commercial opportunities and the NCC will help UK companies realise these opportunities. Greater use of lightweight composites in transport vehicles will, through reduced fuel consumption, help deliver significant CO_2 emission savings. The centre will be operational in August 2011.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many *(a)* current and *(b)* basic bank account transactions in respect of accounts of high street banks were undertaken over Post Office counters in 2009-10; [9160]

(2) how many *(a)* balance inquiries and *(b)* cash withdrawals from high street bank accounts were handled by the Post Office ATM network in 2009-10. [9335]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Growth Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by what mechanism the regional growth fund will be administered. [8696]

Mr Prisk: The regional growth fund was announced in the Budget on 22 June. The fund will be available in 2011-12 and 2012-13 and will support increases in business employment and economic growth by funding regional capital projects.

The details of the fund are still to be determined and will be set out in a White Paper later in the summer, but proposals will be sought from private bodies and public-private partnerships. We would expect successful bids to demonstrate how their proposal will support sustainable increases in business employment and growth in their local economy or community.

The final decision on bids will be made jointly by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. They will be supported in making decisions by a new independent advisory panel.

Sector Skills Councils

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the terms of reference are of each sector skills council; and what assessment he has made of the performance by each in fulfilling its remit. [10046]

Mr Hayes: The terms of reference for all sector skills councils (SSC) focues on raising employer engagement, demand and investment in skills; a lead role in collating and communicating authoritative labour market information; and a lead role in vocational qualifications, apprenticeship frameworks and national occupational standards. In addition each SSC business plan sets out the sectoral objectives specific to the needs of their employers and industries. In 2009/10 all SSCs went through a high performance assessment undertaken by the National Audit Office and the UK Commission to ensure they can deliver against the core remit. The business plans, assessment reports and skills audits of all SSCs are available in the public domain.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the process followed by each sector skills council in taking into account the views of *(a)* learners and *(b)* further education colleges in developing qualifications under the Qualifications and Credit Framework. [10047]

Mr Hayes: Vocational qualifications are developed by awarding organisations in consultation with Sector Skills Councils, who then approve them for the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). In developing qualifications, awarding organisations and sector skills councils seek and take close account of the views of learners and colleges, as well as employers, to ensure that the qualifications are needed by employers and valued by learners. Ofqual ensures that vocational qualifications meet the QCF's rigorous regulatory arrangements before accrediting them.

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills is evaluating the effectiveness of the QCF, including the new vocational qualifications being developed for it.

Sunday Trading: Christmas

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ensure there is no relaxation of restrictions on Sunday trading on Boxing day 2010. [10192]

Mr Davey: The Government currently have no plans to relax restrictions on Sunday trading on Boxing day 2010.

Unemployment: Young People

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of people aged 16 to 24 years were not in education, employment or training in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority in the first quarter of 2009. [10129]

Mr Hayes: Estimates of the number of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) derived from the Labour Force Survey are published quarterly by the Department for Education. The latest publication can be found online at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000924/index.shtml

and includes supplementary tables giving breakdowns by region. The regional estimates for quarter 1 2009 are reproduced in Table 1. Quarterly NEET estimates show a seasonal pattern, with figures at their highest in quarter 3 each year. While quarter 4 is most commonly used for standard reporting, estimates for quarter 1 are usually broadly in line with quarter 4.

Table 1: 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training in English regions, quarter one 2009

	Number	*Percentage*	*95% Confidence Interval*
England	933,000	15.5	+/-0.7
North East	58,000	18.1	+/-3.2
North West	156,000	18.5	+/-2.1
Yorks and Humber	109,000	16.0	+/- 2.2
East Midlands	70,000	12.9	+/-2.1
West Midlands	125,000	19.9	+/-2.4
East of England	84,000	13.6	+/-2.1
London	120,000	13.8	+/-2.0
South East	132,000	14.1	+/-1.8
South West	80,000	13.9	+/-2.3

[1] Aged used in NEET statistics is academic age, which is defined as a respondent's age as at the preceding 31 August.

The regional estimates for quarter 1 2009 are taken from the Labour Force Survey, which does not have a large enough sample to calculate estimates for smaller geographies. However, it is possible to calculate estimates of young people NEET in local authorities from the Annual Population Survey, which has a larger sample than the quarterly Labour Force Survey. The estimates provided in Table 2 cover the period between January to December 2009.

Although local authority level estimates can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey, these estimates are generally subject to large sampling variability and some estimates for smaller authorities will be based on very small samples subject to extreme variability. The estimates in Table 2 should therefore be treated with considerable caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[2], which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a Confidence Interval of +/-4 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 4pp above the estimate and 4pp below the estimate.

[2] Those given are 95% confidence intervals

Table 2: 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training in local authorities, 2009

	Number	*Percentage*	*Confidence Interval (%)*
England	972,000	16.2	+/- 0.5
Barking and Dagenham	4,000	18	+/- 8
Barnet	5,000	18	+/-10
Barnsley	6,000	22	+/- 6
Bath and North East Somerset	3,000	10	+/-5
Bedfordshire	6,000	15	+/-6
Bexley	3,000	10	+/-6
Birmingham	31,000	23	+/-5
Blackburn with Darwen	3,000	19	+/-6
Blackpool	4,000	22	+/-6
Bolton	7,000	19	+/-6
Bournemouth	3,000	13	+/-5
Bracknell Forest	2,000	19	+/-7
Bradford	11,000	18	+/-6
Brent	3,000	15	+/-10
Brighton and Hove	6,000	17	+/-5
Bristol	8,000	14	+/-5
Bromley	2,000	11	+/-10
Buckinghamshire	7,000	13	+/-6
Bury	5,000	23	+/-7
Calderdale	5,000	19	+/-6
Cambridgeshire	7,000	10	+/-5

Table 2: 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training in local authorities, 2009

	Number	*Percentage*	*Confidence Interval (%)*
Camden	5,000	17	+/-7
Cheshire	13,000	18	+/-5
Cornwall	6,000	12	+/-5
Coventry	7,000	15	+/-5
Croydon	7,000	17	+/-8
Cumbria	9,000	19	+/-6
Darlington	3,000	22	+/-6
Derby	7,000	21	+/-6
Derbyshire	10,000	12	+/-5
Devon	10,000	12	+/-5
Doncaster	10,000	27	+/-6
Dorset	6,000	16	+/-6
Dudley	7,000	19	+/-6
Durham	11,000	18	+/-6
Ealing	6,000	16	+/-8
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,000	13	+/-6
East Sussex	9,000	19	+/-7
Enfield	6,000	22	+/-8
Essex	25,000	16	+/-4
Gateshead	4,000	18	+/-6
Gloucestershire	11,000	19	+/-7
Greenwich	3,000	13	+/-7
Hackney	5,000	26	+/-9
Halton	4,000	23	+/-6
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,000	13	+/-8
Hampshire	17,000	12	+/-3
Haringey	7,000	23	+/-8
Harrow	1,000	6	+/-7
Hartlepool	3,000	28	+/-7
Havering	3,000	12	+/-7
Herefordshire	2,000	14	+/-7
Hertfordshire	10,000	10	+/-4
Hillingdon	3,000	8	+/-6
Hounslow	4,000	14	+/-8
Isle of Wight	3,000	22	+/-8
Islington	5,000	19	+/-8
Kensington and Chelsea	1,000	9	+/-8
Kent	25,000	16	+/-4
Kingston upon Hull	10,000	24	+/-5
Kingston upon Thames	1,000	6	+/-5
Kirklees	9,000	23	+/-7
Knowsley	4,000	20	+/-6
Lambeth	4,000	14	+/-7
Lancashire	23,000	17	+/-4
Leeds	17,000	13	+/-4
Leicester	8,000	18	+/-5
Leicestershire	9,000	13	+/-5
Lewisham	5,000	17	+/-9
Lincolnshire	12,000	16	+/-5
Liverpool	16,000	24	+/-6
Luton	5,000	21	+/-6
Manchester	12,000	15	+/-4
Medway	7,000	20	+/-6
Merton	2,000	11	+/-7
Middlesbrough	4,000	21	+/-6
Milton Keynes	5,000	17	+/-7
Newcastle upon Tyne	8,000	17	+/-5
Newham	7,000	22	+/-7
Norfolk	15,000	16	+/-5
North East Lincolnshire	5,000	23	+/-6
North Lincolnshire	3,000	19	+/-7
North Somerset	1,000	7	+/-5
North Tyneside	5,000	27	+/-8
North Yorkshire	9,000	14	+/-6
Northamptonshire	14,000	16	+/-5
Northumberland	5,000	17	+/-7
Nottingham	8,000	13	+/-4
Nottinghamshire	12,000	14	+/-5
Oldham	6,000	24	+/-6
Oxfordshire	7,000	9	+/-5
Peterborough	3,000	15	+/-5
Plymouth	4,000	11	+/-5
Poole	2,000	16	+/-6
Portsmouth	4,000	13	+/-5
Reading	3,000	14	+/-6
Redbridge	4,000	16	+/-8
Redcar and Cleveland	5,000	27	+/-7
Richmond upon Thames	3,000	16	+/-9
Rochdale	5,000	21	+/-6
Rotherham	6,000	23	+/-7
Rutland	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Salford	8,000	24	+/-6
Sandwell	11,000	29	+/-6
Sefton	6,000	19	+/-6
Sheffield	12,000	14	+/-5
Shropshire	3,000	11	+/-5
Slough	2,000	13	+/-5
Solihull	5,000	20	+/-6
Somerset	9,000	14	+/-6
South Gloucestershire	3,000	11	+/-5
South Tyneside	5,000	28	+/-7
Southampton	6,000	18	+/-6
Southend on Sea	3,000	21	+/-7
Southwark	5,000	13	+/-7
St Helens	4,000	21	+/-6
Staffordshire	13,000	14	+/-4
Stockport	6,000	18	+/-6
Stockton-on-Tees	4,000	18	+/-6
Stoke-on-Trent	7,000	25	+/-6
Suffolk	10,000	14	+/-5
Sunderland	9,000	24	+/-6
Surrey	7,000	7	+/-3
Sutton	2,000	16	+/-9
Swindon	4,000	18	+/-6
Tameside	6,000	20	+/-6
Telford and Wrekin	4,000	23	+/-6
Thurrock	4,000	24	+/-7
Torbay	2,000	19	+/-7
Tower Hamlets	8,000	25	+/-8
Trafford	5,000	20	+/-6
Wakefield	9,000	22	+/-6
Walsall	5,000	17	+/-6
Waltham Forest	3,000	10	+/-6
Wandsworth	2,000	6	+/-6
Warrington	4,000	18	+/-6
Warwickshire	8,000	15	+/-6

Table 2: 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training in local authorities, 2009

	Number	*Percentage*	*Confidence Interval (%)*
West Berkshire	1,000	7	+/-5
West Sussex	13,000	18	+/-6
Westminster	5,000	18	+/-9
Wigan	8,000	22	+/-6
Wiltshire	5,000	11	+/-6
Windsor and Maidenhead	3,000	20	+/-7
Wirral	7,000	21	+/-6
Wokingham	2,000	10	+/-5
Wolverhampton	7,000	24	+/-6
Worcestershire	8,000	14	+/-6
York	3,000	10	+/-5

[1] Number less than 500

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Base: 16-24 year olds

Source:

2009 Annual Population Survey

CABINET OFFICE

Lone Parents: Durham

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in City of Durham constituency. [8462]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in City of Durham constituency. (8462)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary. City of Durham constituency, as constituted in 2008, consisted of 20 electoral wards, nine more than the current constituency. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the 2008 constituency.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families with at least one child under 16 (thousand)*[1]
City of Durham constituency (2008)	2

[1] As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty and are therefore presented rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:

APS January to December 2008.

Lone Parents: Newport

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Newport East constituency. [8479]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Newport East constituency. (8479)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary and there have been no boundary changes since 2008 in the area requested.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families with at least one child under 16 (thousand)*[1]
Newport East constituency (2008)	2

[1] As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty and are therefore presented rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:

APS January to December 2008.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 21 July 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an assessment of the likely effects on biodiversity of land use, land use change and forestry projects in the Clean Development Mechanism. [8611]

Richard Benyon: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker) on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 75-76W.

Common Agricultural Policy

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the EU to approve arrangements for post-2013 reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. [10093]

Mr Paice: EU negotiations on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will begin following the European Commission's Communication on CAP, which will be published towards the end of 2010. Detailed legislative proposals are due in 2011. Negotiations should conclude in time for the start of the next Financial Perspective in 2014.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013. [10095]

Mr Paice: We want to see a competitive, thriving and sustainable EU agriculture sector. Ambitious reform of the Common Agricultural Policy is needed to enable farmers to rise to the challenges and opportunities of the future. Reform must deliver good value for money for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment. It must prepare the agriculture sector for the long term, be affordable, be significantly better at delivering public benefits and reduce the burden of regulation on farmers.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many separate buildings her Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* elsewhere in the UK. [6891]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which is defined as the core Department and executive agencies, occupies:

(a) Six sites in London and

(b) 107 sites across the rest of the UK.

A number of these sites accommodate staff from departmental delivery bodies and other Government Departments.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employees of her Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate she has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to her Department of such attendance in each such year. [9046]

Richard Benyon: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. Departments do not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. Travel and subsistence costs for individuals attending the event will be met in line with the Department's rules.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by her Department for this purpose. [5919]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has a diversity team in place to help ensure that DEFRA complies with equality legislation and develops and implements strategies that actively promote equality and diversity throughout the organisation and its provision of services.

The Department's spend for staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years and the number of people who are employed by the Department for this purpose are detailed in the following table.

	Department's diversity spend (diversity team budget) (£)	*Staff costs (£)*	*Number of staff employed by diversity team*[1]
2007-08	260,000	156,800	4
2008-09	140,000	191,506	4
2009-10	124,000	231,261	4.5

[1] The figures represent base salary, earning related national insurance contributions (ERNIC) and employer's superannuation costs. The figures take account of part-time hours, changes in staff profile and proportion of time spent on diversity issues.

The staff cost of the diversity team has reduced to £134,380 for 2010-11. This is the result of a strategic decision to move towards embedding diversity throughout the organisation. This has resulted in the number of staff employed by the diversity team having reduced to 2.2.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7604]

Richard Benyon: The DEFRA website has undergone a single redesign since the creation of the Department in 2001. This went live on 17 September 2009 and external costs for this (for audience research, web structure analysis, design and accessibility auditing) totalled £181,378. It is not possible to separate out the internal staff costs for this work.

The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) website design was completed in 31 March 2009. The cost of external website design company work was £11,643.75. Of this cost, approximately £2,250 would come under the heading of 'Strategy and planning', the remainder would come under the heading 'Design and build'. The website is hosted on Fera's own IT infrastructure and it is not possible to disaggregate the costs associated with hosting the website. 'Content provision' and 'Testing and evaluation' were all carried out in-house. It is not possible to separate out the internal staff costs for this work.

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) has spent a total of £42,500 on design for its website since 1997.

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) website was redesigned in the financial year 2005-06. A project to enable single payment scheme customers to submit and track their applications online has been running since 2008 with the functionality made widely available in 2010. The data required to provide information on costs for website design from these projects are not held in a form that is easily accessible and as such this information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Cattle Tracing System Online transactional website, which enables farmers to submit cattle birth and movement data directly to RPA's central tracing system, was completely rebuilt during 2008 and 2009 using new hardware and software. This provided enhanced functionality and security through the Government Gateway at a total project cost of £3,959,270. Most of the cost was on developing and testing hardware and software to support the interactive transactional services to customers. The spend on web design, which cannot be separated from the total spend, was a small proportion of the overall cost.

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) website was redesigned during 2007-08 to improve its template design, navigation and accessibility. The new site went live on 29 April 2008 and external costs totalled £9,394.13.

Between 1997 and 2008 the Environment Agency spent approximately £40,000 on website design. The Agency's internet website, intranet and the NetRegs website were redesigned during 2008. The intranet went live in August 2008 and the website and NetRegs in December 2008. Because most of the templates are shared, it is impossible to extract costs for the website alone. The external costs for this work (template design, prototype creation, user testing of prototypes and accessibility review) was £88,590. It is not possible to provide internal staff costs for this work.

Natural England vested in October 2006. The design and information architecture costs for the new Natural England website in October 2006 were £17,610. The redesign of the Natural England website went live in February 2009. The design and information architecture costs for this work were £53,991.

The Animal Health Agency (known as the State Veterinary Service prior to 2007) came into existence in 2005. The Agency spent £8,000 during 2009-10 to redesign its web pages to match the new DEFRA templates. It is intended that the refreshed pages will go live during July 2010.

The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) spent approximately £30,000 in 2005 on redesigning its website. In 2009-10 it spent a further £37,323.29 on design. This work is still ongoing with a planned launch date of autumn 2010.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has spent a total of £6,900 on design since 1997.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) has redeveloped its website a couple of times since 1997. Specific figures are not available for earlier work. Following comments from users the VMD is in the process of redesigning its website and costs to date (all internal staff costs) are £17,618.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate spent approximately £5,000 on redesign work in 2009.

In 2005 the existing Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) site was redesigned to improve accessibility, transparency and usability. The cost of this was £3,307.50.

The Inland Waterways Advisory Council (IWAC) is an NDPB created in April 2007. External costs for website design/update work have to date totalled £496.88.

I understand that other agencies and non-departmental public bodies have not carried out redesigns of their websites during this period.

Departmental Manpower

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5107]

Richard Benyon: The HR profession across Whitehall has only centrally collected the cost of human resources for Departments from 2008 onwards. It should also be recognised that there have been significant organisational changes for human resources activities in DEFRA since 1997, which makes like-for-like comparison from year to year very difficult. As a result data prior to 2008 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following data are available for spend on human resources in core DEFRA and its agencies in 2008-09:

Organisation	*HR function cost (£000)*
Animal Health Agency	1,918
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	854
Core DEFRA	8,034
Food and Environment Research Agency (CSL)[1]	761
Marine and Fisheries Agency	500

Organisation	*HR function cost (£000)*
Rural Payments Agency	8,139
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	1,250
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	416
Total	21,872

[1] The Food and Environment Research Agency was established on 1 April 2009 comprising the Central Science Laboratory (CSL), Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI), the Government Decontamination Service (GDS), and the Plants Variety Rights Office and Seeds Division. Data are only available for CSL.

The costs for human resources in 2009-2010 are currently unavailable.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7479]

Richard Benyon: The DEFRA logo was designed when the Department was established in 2001. It was prepared as part of the branding and was not costed separately. The logo has remained the same since the Department was established and there has been no expenditure on the design.

Information on the cost of logo design in DEFRA's agencies and non-departmental public bodies could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Flood Control

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total estimated monetary value is of flood defence assets in England; and what the estimated cost of maintaining those assets is in each of the next three years. [9826]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency estimates the replacement value of flood defence assets in England to be at least £30 billion (at 2005 prices). The Environment Agency maintains an estimated £20 billion of these assets and third parties maintain an estimated £10 billion.

The estimated cost of maintaining the Environment Agency's flood defence assets is £210 million annually for the next three years. The cost for third parties to maintain their assets is unknown.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what flood defence schemes are in the planning stage; and what the target *(a)* start and *(b)* completion date is for work on each scheme. [9827]

Richard Benyon: The figures in the following table show the capital schemes with flood defence grant in aid (FDGiA) funding in 2010-11 in England that are currently in the appraisal stage, and that are estimated to have a final value of more than £250,000. Estimated construction start and completion dates are also given.

Progress of these schemes depends on many factors, including the strength of priority within their business cases, support within each community, appropriate planning and other consents, and the availability of funding. This includes both national grants paid for by general taxation, and local contributions in recognition of the significant benefits to householders, businesses, developers, utilities, landowners and others being delivered through better protection from the damaging consequences of flood events.

Region	*Project name*	*Estimated construction start date*	*Estimated construction completion date*
Anglian	Boston Barrage/Barrier Works	1 April 2014	31 March 2015
Anglian	Boston Haven Works	3 September 2012	31 March 2014
Anglian	Cromer Coastal Protection Scheme 982	1 October 2011	31 March 2030
Anglian	Easton Broad Flood Management Project	tbc	tbc
Anglian	Minsmere Flood Management Project	31 July 2011	30 December 2011
Anglian	Nene Locks Reversal Termination	30 January 2011	28 February 2012
Anglian	Nether Heyford Flood Alleviation Scheme	1 April 2012	31 March 2013
Anglian	Paston Brook Culverts Improvements	1 April 2013	1 November 2013
Anglian	Steeping River and Wainfleet FRC	1 April 2013	31 March 2014
Midlands	Bottle Brook—Lower Kilburn	30 September 2011	31 March 2013
Midlands	Erewash—Stapleford	30 September 2011	31 March 2014
Midlands	Lower Derwent Project Appraisal Report	1 December 2012	1 March 2015
Midlands	Lubbesthorpe Brook	1 September 2011	1 March 2012
Midlands	Newark Brewers Wharf	1 April 2011	31 March 2012
Midlands	Refurbishment of Burton Walls	1 June 2011	31 March 2012
Midlands	Refurbishment of Wooton Wawen Defences	1 July 2012	31 March 2013
Midlands	River Leen	30 September 2011	31 March 2013
Midlands	Sandyford Brook	30 May 2011	31 December 2012
Midlands	Sparkhill FAS	1 April 2012	1 March 2013
North East	Farnley Wood Beck	1 April 2012	31 March 2013
North East	Greatham North	1 May 2013	1 July 2015
North East	Leeds City	1 October 2012	3 January 2019
North East	Morpeth Flood Alleviation Scheme	1 December 2011	1 December 2013
North East	Northallerton	15 September 2012	15 December 2013
North East	Port Clarence and Greatham South	30 April 2013	1 September 2014

Region	*Project name*	*Estimated construction start date*	*Estimated construction completion date*
North East	Scheme Arising from Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy: Seaton Carew Town Frontage	30 April 2011	31 March 2012
North East	Water End (Cell B3)	31 May 2012	31 December 2013
North West	Keswick Flood Defence Improvement Scheme	1 May 2012	31 March 2013
South West	Congresbury Yeo Tidal Banks	1 April 2012	30 October 2014
South West	Exeter Flood Alleviation Scheme	1 December 2013	30 September 2015
South West	New Feniton Flood Alleviation	1 May 2012	1 January 2013
South West	Parrett Estuary—Cannington Bends	1 February 2012	1 May 2015
South West	Steart Managed Realignment	1 June 2012	1 April 2014
South West	Stoke Canon Culm Flood Alleviation Scheme	1 April 2012	31 March 2013
Southern	Cleve Hill Farm—Habitat Creation	30 September 2012	31 March 2013
Southern	Coronation Parade Works	1 September 2011	31 May 2012
Southern	FCEP2—Broomhill Sands Coastal Defence Scheme	1 August 2011	1 September 2013
Southern	FCEP3—Lydd Ranges Scheme	1 April 2011	1 May 2020
Southern	FCEP5—Romney Sands	1 October 2011	1 February 2017
Southern	Hythe to Folkestone Beach Management	10 September 2013	30 October 2018
Southern	Littlehampton Arun Tidal Defences East Bank	1 October 2012	1 March 2014
Southern	Medmerry Managed Realignment	1 March 2012	1 August 2014
Southern	Milton Creek Outfall	1 April 2011	1 March 2013
Southern	Portsea Island—Flood Cell 1: Southsea—Development	tbc	tbc
Southern	Portsea Island—Flood Cell 4: North Portsea Island—Development	tbc	tbc
Southern	Scheme Sandwich Bay to Deal Castle	1 April 2015	31 March 2017
Southern	Shoreham Adur Tidal Walls West Bank	1 October 2012	1 March 2014
Thames	Cargo Package 9	1 April 2012	31 March 2013
Thames	Ching Brook	1 May 2012	30 November 2014
Thames	Graveney Channel Fencing and Future Maintain H&S	1 April 2012	1 March 2014
Thames	Greenwich Package 14	1 April 2011	31 March 2012
Thames	Hammersmith and Fulham Package 7	1 April 2012	31 March 2013
Thames	Minoco Wharf	1 April 2012	31 March 2013
Thames	NE Area Access Ramps	30 May 2011	30 November 2014
Thames	Oxford Short Term Measures 2	30 June 2011	31 March 2012
Thames	River Wey Strategy—Works From	1 April 2013	31 March 2013
Thames	St Lenards Wharf BC005_02	1 April 2012	31 March 2013
Thames	Town Quay Package 8	1 April 2012	31 March 2013
Thames	Turnford Brook Access Improvements	30 July 2011	31 March 2013

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on flood defence in each year between 1999-2000 and 2010-11; and what estimate she has made of the number of additional properties protected by schemes completed in each of those years. [10086]

Richard Benyon: The table provides a breakdown of funding to the Environment Agency for flood risk management between 1999-2000 and 2010-11 and the number of households protected. The household figures for 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are not held centrally and therefore unavailable.

The figures are based upon the annual report and accounts and board papers of the Environment Agency. These sums relate to flood defence grant in aid, excluding non-programmed items, and other income such as Regional Flood and Coastal Committee levies, Internal Drainage Board precept and contributions.

	EA total England (£ million)	*Households protected*
1999-2000	235.0	—
2000-01	248.9	—
2001-02	285.6	—
2002-03	309.8	—
2003-04	331.3	17,623
2004-05	355.6	29,948
2005-06	420.6	52,630
2006-07	419.2	28,409
2007-08	438.9	31,505
2008-09	495.3	29,414
2009-10	548.6	68,168
2010-11	[1]567.8	[2]—

[1] Budgeted.

[2] To be confirmed.

In April 2006 the Environment Agency took on responsibility for the administration of capital grants payable to local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). This was under delegation from DEFRA for all schemes promoted under the Land Drainage Act and for schemes under the Coast Protection Act from April 2008.

In accordance with this, and in addition to the sums shown in the above table, the following figures were allocated to local authorities and IDBs.

	Local authorities	£ million IDBs
2007-08	49	14
2008-09	54	9
2009-10	54	10
2010-11	47	14

Flood Control: Witham

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to improve flood defences in Witham constituency; and if she will make a statement. [10089]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency is investigating the provision of flood resilience measures, to improve protection to properties in Witham and upstream in the River Blackwater catchment.

The Environment Agency undertakes an annual programme of maintenance on rivers and tidal defences in the Witham constituency to maintain the current standard of flood protection.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department allocated to flood defence measures in Witham constituency in the last 12 months. [10090]

Richard Benyon: In the last 12 months to April 2010, the Environment Agency spent £540,000 in the Witham constituency. Expenditure included work on flood defence maintenance (£460,000), flood incident response and developing proposals to protect properties in and around Witham.

Inland Waterways

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to protect and enhance the canal network. [9532]

Richard Benyon: We recognise that the canal network is a vibrant resource which provides a wide range of public benefits. There has been significant public and private investment in the canal network over recent years, and British Waterways' grant from DEFRA remains at the significant sum of £51.3 million this year. British Waterways manages its maintenance programme using a risk-based approach in order to ensure that its network remains in a reasonable and safe condition, and is engaged in a number of improvement projects.

We are currently considering the possible movement of British Waterways in to the civil society, and this has the potential to make a significant, and innovative, contribution to the long-term sustainability and resilience of the waterways by providing additional income and greater engagement of all users, volunteers and local communities in waterways management. Decisions will be made in the context of the forthcoming spending review.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department has allocated to research and development in respect of reliable and sustainable water infrastructure. [9541]

Richard Benyon: The budget in 2010-11 for research and development under the Water Availability and Quality programme is around £2.7 million, of which around £500,000 is allocated to research and development on water efficiency and water supply.

Water companies also fund their own research and development.

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of implementation of the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 on Witham constituency. [10091]

Richard Benyon: A thorough assessment of the effect of the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill 2009 was made during its passage through Parliament. The impact assessment for the resulting Act can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/documents/legislation/marine-ia-0410.pdf

This sets out that parts 1 to 8 of the Act are expected to provide average annual benefits in the range of £753-1,654 million, together with various non-monetised benefits, for an average annual cost of £41-81 million. Assessments are not made at constituency level. Proposals on how different parts of the Act are to be implemented are being put forward for public consultation and are accompanied by individual impact assessments.

National Parks

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the accountability to the public of governance structures of national parks. [9838]

Richard Benyon: Since the end of May two parliamentary questions have been received on this issue, both of which were from my hon. Friend the Member for New Forest West (Mr Swayne). The first was answered 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 30W. The second is due to be answered 22 July, Mr Swayne has also written on behalf of a constituent about this issue.

I had an opportunity to discuss accountability when I recently visited the Northumberland National Park Authority and have since exchanged letters with the English National Park Authorities Association on the issue.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the administrative costs of *(a)* the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and *(b)* each other national park authority were in each of the last three years. [9839]

Richard Benyon: Administrative costs are not recorded separately by the national park authorities but are included in the expenditure figures under activity headings. The most recent information available is for 2008-09 and is as follows:

£000

	Broads	*Dartmoor*	*Exmoor*	*Lake District*	*New Forest*	*Northumberland*	*North York Moors*	*Peak District*	*Yorkshire Dales*
Conservation of natural environment	1,211	921	940.7	1,009	710.5	468.9	1,109	3,160.2	619.5
Conservation of cultural heritage	884	297	474	329	745.4	748.6	339	629.1	247.2
Recreation management and transport	835	542	502.3	2,426	165.9	376.9	1,560	2,509.9	1,962.2
Promoting understanding	807	1,015	791.2	3,334	719.2	833.5	1,394	3,080.6	1,491.8
Rangers, estates services and volunteers	444	1,014	840.1	1,553	16.5	621.1	869	848.4	502.9
Development control	332	1,007	479.8	1,252	1,188.8	144.6	933	1,409.9	887.6
Forward planning	141	568	647.3	936	474.8	812.6	527	842.6	399.6
Corporate and democratic core	523	386	303.1	935	671.2	408	322	491.4	294.7
Non-distributed costs	87	50	33	773	—	—	—	—	—
Broads navigation account	2,428	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Windermere registration scheme	—	—	—	273	—	—	—	—	—
Total expenditure	7,692	5,800	5,011.5	12,820	4,692.3	4,414.2	7,053	12,972.1	6,405.5

Information for previous years is available from the individual national park authorities' websites at:

www.nationalparks.gov.uk

Reservoirs

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total water storage capacity in UK reservoirs was *(a)* at the latest date for which figures are available, *(b)* in 2005 and *(c)* in 2000. [9092]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold figures for 2000 and 2005. Until recently, the net change in reservoir capacity since privatisation in 1989 had been small, although within that some small reservoirs were taken out of operation and some introduced.

As of 14 July 2010 the total capacity of all reservoirs in England and Wales which fall under the Reservoirs Act 1975 (large raised reservoirs with a capacity of 25,000 cubic metres of water or more above natural ground level) was 3,064 million cubic metres.

Information for Scotland can be obtained from the Scottish Government and for Northern Ireland from the Northern Ireland Office.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reservoir capacity was of each privatised water company *(a)* on the date of privatisation and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [10033]

Richard Benyon: The following table sets out the capacity of reservoirs for each privatised water company in England and Wales on 16 July 2010. These are reservoirs that fall under the Reservoirs Act 1975 (large raised reservoirs with a capacity of 25,000m^3 or more above natural ground level). There are some reservoirs that fall under the Act which are not owned by the water companies.

Water company	*Capacity (m^3)*
Anglian Water Services Ltd	232,275,419
Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water PLC	985,800
Bristol Water PLC	39,781,900
Dee Valley Water PLC	1,685,800
Essex and Suffolk Water Ltd	54,300,640
Veolia Water Southeast Ltd	45,000
Hartlepool Water Co.	1,895,000
Northumbrian Water Ltd	375,474,609
Portsmouth Water Ltd	331,240
Severn Trent Water Ltd	270,158,552
South East Water Ltd	9,125,462
South Staffordshire Water Plc	21,427,380
South West Water Services Ltd	119,242,296
Southern Water Services Ltd	42,689,850
Sutton and East Surrey Water Plc	9,985,000
Thames Water Utilities Ltd	199,397,903
Veolia Water Central Ltd	3,834,215
United Utilities Group Plc	300,284,860
Welsh Water (Dwr Cymru Cyf)	459,038,777
Wessex Water Services Ltd	11,798,140
Yorkshire Water Services Ltd	192,832,462
Total	2,346,590,305

Reservoir capacities on the date of privatisation are not available.

River Blackwater

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of the environment of the River Blackwater and surrounding land. [10092]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has plans under the water framework directive to improve river habitats, reduce the impact of diffuse pollution from agriculture and modify abstraction licences to improve the River Blackwater.

Under the Catchment Flood Management Plan, the current river maintenance programme and standards of protection, including around Witham, Coggeshall and Kelvedon, will be maintained.

Rivers: Pollution

Mr Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the level of pollution to rivers and water supplies resulting from the run-off of chemicals and metals from car wash businesses. [10103]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency undertakes extensive monitoring of river quality, including for chemicals and metals. No specific work has been undertaken to determine the impact of uncontrolled car washes on water quality. The Environment Agency is aware of the potential impact these activities can have on the water environment and has, in collaboration with other UK regulators, produced pollution prevention guidance (PPG13) for their safe operation. It uses this guidance to help inform operators of their legal responsibilities and the measures they can use to control their discharges.

DEFRA is working with the Environment Agency to investigate whether a different approach to regulation is necessary.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's position is on the establishment of a replacement target date for an ecologically coherent network of well-managed protected marine areas under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic. [10219]

Richard Benyon: The Government recognise that the previous OSPAR target for a well-managed ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2010 will be missed. A replacement target will be agreed at the OSPAR ministerial meeting in September. In determining any new target, we will look to reflect our national commitment to a substantially established ecologically coherent network of MPAs by 2012, and work with contracting parties to agree a revised target that is both ambitious and achievable. To support this, we are seeking reform of the Common Fisheries Policy that ensures all MPAs can be properly managed.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9666]

Mr Paterson: No instructions have been issued.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7576]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for Policing and Justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

The Department is charged on an annual basis for legal services. Since devolution, the Department has incurred costs of £5,573.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred a cost of £880 since 12 April.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7963]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has spent £13,410.68 on the Government Car Service since the Government took office.

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7964]

Mr Paterson: Since the Government took office, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) ministerial team and nine departmental officials, when carrying sensitive documents, have been driven by the Government Car Service. There have been no claims made for travel expenses by these officials.

In addition, the Government publish, on a quarterly basis, the expenses incurred by the most senior officials which includes use of the Government Car Service and other travel expenses.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6867]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for Policing and Justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has incurred no expenditure in this area.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has also incurred no expenditure in this area.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Capital Expenditure

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue schemes in excess of £100,000 the House of Commons Commission started in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [7560]

Sir Stuart Bell: Those schemes in excess of £100,000 which commenced in each of the financial years were:

2008-09

Capital schemes

Refurbishment of Library accommodation in Norman Shaw North building;

Refurbishment of toilets in Palace of Westminster centre curtain area;

Conversion of lift in Norman Shaw North building to evacuation lift;

Mechanical and electrical services modernisation in the Palace of Westminster;

1 Canon Row refurbishment and lift extension;

Estates Enterprise Programme Management System.

Revenue schemes

Portcullis House fire safety system upgrade;

Extension of Whitehall security measures to the Northern Estate;

Refurbishment of ventilation in workshops in the Palace of Westminster;

Disability Discrimination Act works;

Parliamentary Outreach.

Schemes involving a mixture of capital and revenue

ICT infrastructure replacement;

Improvement of Department of Facilities IT systems.

2009-10

Capital schemes

Acquisition of 53 Parliament street;

14 Tothill street office fit-out for occupation;

Preparation of 4 Millbank for occupation;

Refurbishment of toilets in 7 Millbank;

Palace of Westminster lower waiting hall toilet refurbishment;

1 Canon Row gym ventilation and cooling.

Revenue schemes

Refresh of Members' offices;

Refurbishment of Lord Speaker's lift to provide evacuation facility;

School Transport Subsidy relating to increase in education service;

ICT Research and Development;

Implementation of House Equality Scheme.

Schemes involving a mixture of capital and revenue

Enterprise Information Management;

Core Parliamentary Information Management Framework.

Conversion of first floor, 1 Parliament street to a nursery.

2010-11

Capital schemes

Replacement of Chamber cameras.

Revenue scheme

Accommodation and services changes and other costs associated with changes following the general election.

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Fraud

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were prosecuted for offences of alcohol fraud in 2009. [9913]

The Attorney-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office prosecuted 20 people for alcohol fraud in the calendar year 2009.

Courts: Sentencing

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations are contracted to provide facilities for carrying out community sentences given by courts; and if he will publish the evaluation carried out by his Department on the programmes provided by each such organisation. [9272]

Mr Blunt: Completion of community sentence orders are managed by each of the 35 Probation Trusts. Probation Trusts are established as separate corporate entities to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and they do not have central systems with the MoJ that permit access to information.

Therefore, the information requested would require the manual collection of all associated data and records from each individual Probation Trust at a disproportionate cost.

Courts: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the status is of the proposed rebuilding of court premises in Sunderland; and if he will make a statement. [9264]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS is committed to the delivery of a new Justice Centre in Sunderland. It has acquired the Farringdon Row site from Sunderland city council and completed the design to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage D.

HMCS has a portfolio of major build projects, which are at various stages of their development. In line with standard practice, these will be assessed as part of Government investment and governance procedures and considered against the outcome of the current comprehensive spending review.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9249]

Mr Blunt: The Department does not hold information on the time taken by its contractors to pay their sub-contractors.

However, the Department's standard contractual terms and conditions include a stipulation that contractors ensure that a provision is included in sub-contracts which requires payment to be made of all sums due by the contractor to the sub-contractor within a specified period not exceeding 30 days from the receipt of a valid invoice.

Legal Aid: Victims

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will direct his proposed review of legal aid to consider whether a proportion of the legal aid budget should be made available to assist victims and witnesses in cases of violent and serious crime; and if he will make a statement. [9091]

Mr Djanogly: There are currently no plans to consider whether a proportion of the legal aid budget should be made available to assist victims and witnesses in cases of violent and serious crime.

The Government ensure practical and emotional support to victims through Victim Support and other voluntary sector providers. Through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, they also provide financial compensation to blameless victims of violent and sexual crime. Bereaved relatives of homicide victims are also able to access free legal advice using a specialised helpline established in 2009. Any victim or witness can access free legal advice through the Legal Services Commission's Community Legal Advice website and helpline.

The MoJ currently funds Victim Support on an annual basis and it received £38.2 million in the last financial year (2009-10). This year Victim Support is testing a model of working that has seen the development of enhanced support services for the most vulnerable victims of crime and in particular families bereaved by homicide. Other specialist providers of services to victims are funded by the victims' fund, comprised of money collected through the Victims' Surcharge which is levied on all fines and ring-fenced for spending on services to victims. In 2010-11 £2.25 million has been made available to fund third-sector services for victims of sexual violence, £270,000 to fund third-sector services for families bereaved through homicide and £250,000 has been made available to third-sector services for hate crime.

The Government are also working to ensure victims and witnesses get the support they need to attend court and give best evidence. Witness Care Units (run jointly be the Police and CPS) ensure witnesses are kept involved in the process, helped to attend court and offered special measures, for example giving evidence by video, behind screens or with the help of an intermediary to assist communication and enable vulnerable and/or intimidated victims to give best evidence. Victims are also able to make a victim personal statement which enables them to set out in their own words the impact of the crime upon them so that it can be considered by the court.

On 23 June 2010 the Justice Secretary announced that we are considering policy on the subject of legal aid in England and Wales. We are looking at how to make the legal aid system more efficient, in the context of the current financial climate, while ensuring that it continues to play a vital part in ensuring that people can get access to justice. The Government will consider the policy, and intend to seek views on the proposed new approach in the autumn.

Legal Representation: Mentally Ill

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what mechanism exists for detained mental health patients to choose their legal representation; [9162]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to assist detained mental health patients to contact solicitors and to reduce the time taken for such patients to have access to legal services. [9164]

Mr Djanogly: Legal advice is available to detained mental health patients to assist in the preparation and in representing a client before the Mental Health Tribunal. Such advice and assistance is without reference to a client's means. There are currently 221 providers in England and Wales who have contracts to undertake such work. Their details are available on the Community Legal Advice website. Additionally we are aware that many Mental Health Act Administrators within hospitals have a list of local solicitors which they provide to clients to enable them to access legal advice.

A recent tender exercise has been carried out by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) for new Mental Health contracts commencing in October 2010. The tender exercise has been significantly oversubscribed in all strategic health authorities.

Rape Crisis Centres

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what plans he has for future funding of existing rape crisis centres; [10255]

(2) what criteria will be used to determine in which areas to establish new rape crisis centres; [10228]

(3) whether the Government's plans to establish 20 new rape crisis centres will affect levels of funding for existing rape crisis centres; and if he will make a statement. [10229]

Mr Blunt: The Government recognise the crucial role played by rape support centres in the provision of support to victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence. To improve stability within the sector and increase the provision of services across England and Wales we have committed within the Coalition programme for government to

> 'consider how to use proceeds from the Victim Surcharge to deliver up to 15 new rape crisis centres, and give existing rape crisis centres stable, long-term funding.'

This commitment remains a priority for the Government. Work to develop a sustainable funding model for the sector and to identify, through comparison of existing service provision against predicted demand, those areas where the need for new centres is most acute will be undertaken in conjunction with the comprehensive spending review. No final decisions will be made until the autumn, when the results of the spending review are announced.

Rape: Victims

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* reported cases of rape, *(b)* prosecutions for rape and *(c)* convictions for rape involved a victim with (i) disabilities and (ii) learning disabilities in the latest period for which figures are available. [10231]

Mr Blunt: Information collected by the Home Office on the number of recorded offences does not separately identify whether the victim of rape had a disability.

The Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice contains information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in a statute, statistical information available centrally does not include the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to separately identify from prosecutions and convictions for rape, the number of cases where the victim had a disability.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Art Works

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on works of art since 2005. [6163]

Alistair Burt: Spending on works of art by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) was as follows:

	£
2005-06	19,121
2006-07	55,551
2007-08	0
2008-09	5,288
2009-10	74,887
2010-11	746

[1] To date.

Works of art displayed in FCO buildings in the UK and throughout the network are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

Departmental Mobile Phones

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many mobile telephones issued by his Department were recorded as *(a)* lost, *(b)* stolen and *(c)* broken in each year since 1997. [8833]

Alistair Burt: Within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsibility for the management of mobile phones is devolved to Directorates and Posts overseas. There is no central record of lost, stolen or broken mobile phones and consequently it is not possible to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimates his Department makes of the level of emoluments it pays to locally-engaged staff; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the level of such emoluments is in line with that paid to locally-engaged staff of other Departments. [10144]

Alistair Burt: The paybill for locally-engaged staff, as published in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) resource accounts, for the 2009-10 financial year was £167.7 million. This figure includes both the salary and pension costs for approximately 10,500 local staff employed by the FCO overseas.

A large proportion of local staff employed by other Government Departments are recruited and paid according to the FCO's locally set terms and conditions of service, ensuring equality on emoluments. In 2009 the FCO and the Department for International Development undertook an exercise to ensure local staff pay and benefits for both Departments remained in line with each other and with local market conditions.

Diplomatic Service

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department has issued to UK embassies on support and assistance that should be offered to UK nationals undertaking human rights monitoring or advocacy in other jurisdictions. [9778]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to providing high quality consular support to British nationals travelling or resident overseas. Information on how the FCO can help British nationals is set out in the public guide 'Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide'. The publication is available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/publications

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel Advice is an authoritative source of travel safety information for all British nationals (regardless of their purpose of travel). See the FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/

Our embassies implement the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders which apply to all individuals promoting or protecting human rights (including UK nationals). The Guidelines provide practical guidance to EU member states' embassies and EU Representations and Delegations abroad on how to fulfil the commitment in EU Common Foreign and Security Policy to promote and encourage respect for the right to defend human rights. This policy is based on the premise of the UN human rights system (i) that member states are responsible for ensuring that the rights of individuals, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in the UN human rights conventions which they have ratified, are respected and protected within their jurisdictions and (ii) that all member states share this responsibility to respect and promote these universal rights for all individuals everywhere.

Overseas Aid: Human Rights

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-8WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office programmes, what work in which countries will be stopped as a result of the £560,000 reduction in spending on human rights and democracy; and if he will make a statement. [5487]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary announced a 10% reduction this year in the Strategic Programme Fund for Human Rights and Democracy, as a contribution to reducing public expenditure, while making clear our desire to sustain such programmes in future years. Programme funds are only one way in which the Government uphold human rights, which are also a major focus of our overall bilateral and multilateral diplomatic activity. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in consultation with partners, is currently assessing how this 10% reduction to the Strategic Programme Fund for Human Rights and Democracy can be implemented.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in Peterborough constituency in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [10097]

Andrew Stunell: Information on new affordable homes is not available by constituency. The information requested for Peterborough local authority is provided in the following table.

New-build affordable homes delivered in Peterborough[1]

	Number
2005-06	80
2006-07	120
2007-08	280
2008-09	380

[1] Rounded to nearest 10 homes.

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency and local authorities.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new-build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2008-09, for example, a total of 420 additional affordable homes were provided in Peterborough.

The next CLG affordable housing statistical release containing figures for 2009-10 is scheduled to be published in the autumn.

Council Housing: Harlow

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will make an estimate of the financial effect on Harlow district council of the Tenant Services Authority inspection and audit programme in financial year *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [9810]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of the Tenant Services Authority's programme of annual inspections and audits in financial year 2010-11. [9812]

Andrew Stunell: The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) was not responsible for the inspection or regulation of local authorities in 2009-10.

The previous inspections regime for local authorities ceased on 1 April 2010 and is currently being reviewed. No fees in relation to inspections will be incurred by any local authority in 2010-11.

Housing: Construction

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding he has allocated for the building of houses in *(a)* England, *(b)* Tyneside and *(c)* Newcastle Central constituency in 2010-11. [9937]

Andrew Stunell: The three programmes which provide funding directly for the building of new affordable homes in England in the current spending period are: the National Affordable Housing Programme, Kickstart Housing Programmes, and Local Authority New Build. These programmes have mainly funded new affordable homes for social rent and low-cost home ownership, although Kickstart has delivered an element of market sale homes.

Information on the National Affordable Housing Programme allocations across the spending period are available on the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) website. These are provided by region and local authority area:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/funding_allocation

A list of those schemes which have been successful in their applications for Kickstart Housing Delivery and Local Authority New Build are available on the HCA website:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/housing_stimulus

Local Government Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to increase the transparency of the existing formula grant allocation process. [8010]

Robert Neill: The coalition Government are fully committed to a local government resource review and we will make a further announcement in due course. In the meantime, we are prepared to keep an open mind about proposals for increasing the transparency of the formula grant distribution process.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for his Department's review of the local government finance formula; and when he expects to be in a position to implement a new formula. [9547]

Robert Neill: The coalition Government are fully committed to a local government resource review and we will make a further announcement in due course. This is the last year of a three-year settlement, and we will be consulting on our proposals for 2011-12 in due course. We are of course prepared to keep an open mind about options for change regarding the distribution of formula grant to local authorities.

Local Government Services: Expenditure

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of local authority expenditure incurred on services provided under statutory obligations. [10147]

Robert Neill: No. The information requested is not available centrally.

Local Government: Contracts

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of contracts entered into by local authorities; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of such contracts in each of the next three years. [10146]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Ordnance Survey

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to take steps to encourage the further *(a)* release and *(b)* public re-use of Ordnance Survey geospatial data. [7905]

Robert Neill: The release of some Ordnance Survey datasets through OS OpenData earlier this year will give citizens and businesses the ability to freely use and re-use those data, including for commercial purposes. The package of products released was chosen to maximise the ability to make best use of other public data which are freely available (e.g. through data.gov.uk) and to ensure that Ordnance Survey continues to provide high-quality products and services to those customers who need them. There are no current plans to change the products made available through OS OpenData.

Rented Housing: Empty Property

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of vacant properties in the *(a)* social and *(b)* private rented sector in Sunderland. [9318]

Andrew Stunell: Information is not collected by constituency.

The Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) collects information from local authorities on the number of vacant dwellings within each local authority area as at 1 April. Information is not collected on the number of vacant dwellings in the private rented sector.

The Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) is collected by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) and collects information on vacant dwellings from registered social landlords as at 31 March. However, the number of vacant dwellings recorded includes general needs dwellings only.

A table showing the number of vacant dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords in each local authority area as at 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2009 respectively has been placed in the Library of the House.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households with people of working age in social housing are deemed to be under-occupying by *(a)* one bedroom and *(b)* two or more bedrooms in each local authority area. [10028]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* Data on under-occupation are not available at local authority level. Under-occupied households are normally defined as those with two or more bedrooms more than required as assessed by the Bedroom Standard. On this basis it is estimated that 216,000 households with a household reference person of working age in social housing were under-occupying in 2007-08. It is estimated that 721,000 households with a household reference person of working age in social housing had one bedroom more than required. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Finance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make of the differential effect on the regions of a reduction in public spending on the arts. [10165]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: No decisions have yet been made on the spending review and the Department remains in discussions with HM Treasury.

We recognise the importance of understanding the distributional impact of any proposed changes, and are carrying out detailed work over the summer to analyse the impact of any changes.

Church of England: Anniversaries

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with the Church of England events to mark the 350th anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer in 2012. [9204]

John Penrose: I understand that the Prayer Book Society is currently campaigning for a special coin and stamp to be issued by the Royal Mint and Royal Mail to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer. We currently have no plans to discuss any commemorative events to celebrate the anniversary with the Church of England.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9044]

John Penrose: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. Departments do not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. There may have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates paid for by individual departments. Civil servants attending the event will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by their departments.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9669]

John Penrose: The private offices maintain a guidance document which provides general advice for officials working with Ministers.

In providing briefings and speeches I have requested that all documentation is concise, focused and easy to navigate.

The Secretary of State has asked officials to provide clear and detailed responses to official correspondence within 48 hours where possible and to move to an entirely electronic system of correspondence handling to further drive efficiency in this area.

Digital Broadcasting: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the average cost per household, including vehicle ownership, of upgrading radio equipment in preparation for the proposed switchover from analogue to digital radio in Milton Keynes North constituency. [8489]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are preparing a comprehensive review of the costs and benefits of a digital radio switchover. Only once such an assessment has been made can a decision be taken on whether to implement a radio switchover programme.

On 8 July I announced the Digital Radio Action Plan, which outlines the information the Government will need in order to make a well-informed decision on whether to proceed with a radio switchover. A key aspect of the plan will include a detailed impact assessment of the proposed costs, including household and vehicle conversion, and benefits of a digital radio switchover programme.

Digital Broadcasting: Motor Vehicles

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of car radios that will be unable to receive radio broadcasts following digital switchover. [9514]

Mr Vaizey: On 8 July I announced the Digital Radio Action Plan, which outlines the information the Government will need in order to make a well-informed decision on whether to proceed with a radio switchover. As part of this process, the Technical and Equipment Consumer Expert Group will consider the impact of a possible digital radio switchover on existing and new car radios.

Digital Broadcasting: North West

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that television broadcasts are available to all in the north-west following the switch-off of the analogue signal; and by what date he expects full coverage in the north-west to be established. [9523]

Mr Vaizey: Between 2008 and 2012, analogue TV signals are being replaced with digital on a region by region basis. Granada TV region switched to digital in December 2009. Digital UK (DUK) is responsible for co-ordinating the switchover programme and publishes switchover dates on its website:

www.digitaluk.co.uk

approximately eight to 12 months in advance of the region switching.

After switchover is complete, 98.5% of households in the UK will be able to receive about 15 TV channels, including all the Public Service Broadcast (PSB) channels, and many will be able to receive considerably more. In addition, viewers can choose from a number of other digital television options. Coverage by the commercial multiplex operators is a commercial matter for them.

Detailed information on the coverage of digital terrestrial TV for the PSB and commercial multiplexes after switchover can be found on the Ofcom website:

http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/files/2010/07/granada.pdf

Digital Switchover Fund

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the projected total underspend is in the Digital Switchover Fund. [10223]

Mr Vaizey: The BBC licence fee settlement ring-fenced £600 million for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme. We now estimate that the Help Scheme will underspend by £300 million.

Gaming Machines

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the effects on amusement centres *(a)* at the seaside and *(b)* elsewhere of increasing the stake for category B3 machines to £2 and increasing the proportion of category B3 machines in each establishment. [9448]

John Penrose: On 23 June 2010 I met with representatives of the British Amusement Catering Trades Association (BACTA) to discuss a range of issues affecting the gaming machine industry, including seaside arcades. Our discussion included the case for increasing the stake for category B3 machines to £2 and the proportion of category B3 machines in each establishment as a means of helping adult gaming centres to remain competitive. I am now considering these matters in the context of the public protection objectives of the Gambling Act 2005.

I hope to make an announcement shortly.

National Lottery

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether Big Lottery funding after 1 April 2011 will be able to go to the good cause of health, education and environment. [8008]

John Penrose *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The Big Lottery Fund will continue to be a lottery distributor after April 2011, funding the same range of projects as it does now, but focusing on the voluntary and community sector.

National Lottery: Arts

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the *(a)* cash and *(b)* percentage change in the amount of lottery funding for the Arts Council England would be if the share of lottery funding going to the arts good cause were increased to 20%. [8006]

John Penrose *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* On current projections, the arts will receive about an extra £50 million a year, of which Arts Council England would receive about £35 million extra per year, bringing ACE's total lottery income to about £210 million. This is 20% more than the body would receive without the share change. Also, after ACE's contribution to the Olympics ends in 2012, £30 million more of this income will be available for arts projects.

National Lottery: Olympic Games 2012

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much has been raised from all dedicated London 2012 Olympic Lottery games *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each quarter of the last two years. [9635]

John Penrose: As at 31 March 2010, the total contributed to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) from designated Olympic Lottery games is £468.3 million.

The amount contributed to the OLDF from designated Olympic Lottery Games in each quarter of financial year 2008-09 and 2009-10 is:

	£ million
2008-09	
Quarter one	31.2
Quarter two	43.6
Quarter three	27.3
Quarter four	24
2009-10	
Quarter one	16.1
Quarter two	15.8
Quarter three	23.7
Quarter four	22.4

These figures include only primary contributions and not investment income or unclaimed prizes.

The National Lottery Commission publishes quarterly reports detailing the level of funds that have been transferred to the OLDF. These are available on its website:

http://www.natlotcomm.gov.uk/client/content.ASP?ContentId=234

Public Libraries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many public libraries *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year since 1997. [8804]

Mr Vaizey: Central Government do not produce data on the number of public libraries opened or closed each year.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many new public libraries were built in England in each of the last 10 years; [7927]

(2) how many public libraries were closed in England in each of the last 10 years. [7928]

Mr Vaizey: Central Government do not produce data on the number of public libraries built or closed each year. Data showing the number of public library service points in England are published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in its annual Public Library Statistics and are reproduced in the following table. Copies of the CIPFA Public Library Statistics are available in the House Libraries.

	Libraries open 60+ hrs per week	*Libraries open 45-59 hrs per week*	*Libraries open 30-44 hrs per week*	*Libraries open 10-29 hrs per week*	*Mobile libraries*	*Libraries open 10+ hrs per week (incl. mobiles)*	*Libraries open <10hrs per week*	*Libraries open (all hours)*
1998-99	11	437	1242	1347	467	3504	150	3654
1999-2000	11	458	1222	1340	470	3501	132	3633
2000-01	19	469	1213	1331	465	3497	130	3627
2001-02	28	493	1199	1311	473	3504	115	3619
2002-03	42	598	1168	1240	462	3510	91	3601
2003-04	51	683	1143	1186	461	3524	80	3604
2004-05	69	727	1139	1106	433	3474	96	3570
2005-06	81	760	1124	1092	443	3500	73	3573
2006-07	97	741	1132	1096	428	3494	86	3580
2007-08	104	760	1111	1085	409	3469	96	3565
2008-09	119	780	1095	1062	395	3451	91	3542

Public Libraries: Expenditure

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was spent on public libraries in England in each of the last five years. [7933]

Mr Vaizey: The expenditure on library services in England in each of the past five years can be seen in the following table:

	Net current expenditure[1] *(£ million)*
2005-06	867,115
2006-07	889,558
2007-08	908,406
2008-09	928,143
2009-10	951,170

[1] Net current expenditure is defined here as the costs of staffing, heating, lighting and cleaning, together with expenditure on goods and services consumed within the year. This expenditure is offset by income from sales, fees and charges and other (non-grant) income.

This information was provided by the Communities and Local Government Revenue Account (RA) budget returns.

In addition, the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has used DCMS grant in aid to develop, share and promote best practice in libraries and has supported libraries to deliver projects such as Boys into Books and Book Ahead which are funded by the Department for Education. Public libraries have also benefited from lottery funding and private finance initiative credits which have been invested in individual projects.

Theatre: Concessions

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many free theatre tickets have been provided to under-26-year-olds resident in *(a)* Wirral South, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England since 2008. [9942]

Mr Vaizey: The A Night Less Ordinary scheme gave away 225,986 tickets to under-26-year-olds across England in its first 15 months. 29,704 tickets were given away by venues in the north-west.

Details for individual theatres are commercially sensitive and cannot be provided. Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse are the Merseyside venues participating in the scheme. There are no venues in Wirral South.

TRANSPORT

A338

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to build a relief road from Bournemouth airport to the A338. [10127]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* The Department for Transport currently has no plans to build a relief road from Bournemouth airport to the A338.

The Government have made clear that their most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record budget deficit in order to restore confidence in the economy and support the economy.

Ministers are therefore reviewing all Department for Transport projects and programmes as part of the spending review to ensure they represent good value for money and are consistent with the Government's objectives.

Once the spending review has concluded, it will be for the local authority to bring forward any scheme which it believes is a strong competitor for the available funding.

A614: Nottinghamshire

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent reports he has received on the safety record of the A614 in Nottinghamshire. [7090]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The Department for Transport routinely receives reports from police authorities into all road accidents involving personal injury. I am aware of a number of fatal and serious injury accidents on the A614 in recent years and I know that the county council is working closely with Nottinghamshire police within the county's Road Safety Partnership to identify and implement measures to improve the safety record of the route.

Airports

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his timetable is for publication of the national policy statement on airports. [8610]

Mrs Villiers: The Government will issue a more detailed statement on national policy statements later in the summer.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the security of data collected by automatic number plate recognition cameras operated by his Department and its agencies is protected. [9079]

Mike Penning: All data captured by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's mobile automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras are stored securely and protected using security codes generated using Home Office Police Scientific Development Branch (PSDB 3/96) published standards for data protection. The data captured from DVLA's static cameras are held on a secure data storage server.

Data from the Highways Agency's ANPR cameras are scrambled at source into a non-unique code which can apply to more than one vehicle simultaneously. This process renders the data as non-personal under the Data Protection Act 1998.

In addition, the Highways Agency operates a system of information asset owners to ensure that data are held and used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and with Cabinet Office Data Handling guidance issued in 2008.

Data gathered by ANPR cameras are stored at the Highways Agency national traffic control centre (NTCC). The Highways Agency's information asset owner (IAO) has ensured that the information is accredited to Information Security ISO27001 standards.

The Department uses ANPR cameras in an annual survey to estimate the rate of vehicle excise duty (VED) evasion and MOT non-compliance. All ANPR images and data collected in this survey are treated as personal. They are passed from the survey contractor to the Department in encrypted form and are stored on secure, accredited servers to which only a strictly limited number of staff have access.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition: East Yorkshire

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many automatic number plate recognition cameras operated by his Department and its agencies there are in East Yorkshire constituency. [9078]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has a mobile automatic number plate recognitions (ANPR) unit based in Leeds which travels around the area to detect the use of unlicensed vehicles. This unit will occasionally cover areas in East Yorkshire. DVLA has no static automatic number plate recognition cameras in East Yorkshire. The Vehicle and Operators Service Agency (VOSA) has one mobile ANPR unit which will occasionally cover areas in East Yorkshire.

The Department for Transport uses ANPR cameras in an annual survey to estimate the rate of vehicle excise duty (VED) evasion and MOT non-compliance. This survey operates during one month of the year, at four sites in the Humberside police force area, for two days at each site.

Bus Services

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what impact assessments his Department has conducted on *(a)* the effect of the provision of bus services in rural communities, *(b)* social inclusion and *(c)* the projected increase in bus fares of reductions in the Bus Services Operators Grant from the fiscal year 2011-12 onwards. [8745]

Norman Baker: Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) in Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Government.

In England, an impact assessment was published in March 2008 alongside a consultation document on options for bus subsidy reform. A subsequent impact assessment was published in December 2009.

Government support for rural bus services in England is also provided through the separate Rural Bus Subsidy Grant, worth £60 million in 2010-11.

Bus Services: Finance

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the Bus Service Operators Grant; and if he will make a statement. [10246]

Norman Baker: We have received several letters from, and had discussions with: bus companies; their representative bodies; MPs; local government representatives and other interest groups, about the Bus Service Operators Grant.

The Government will consider Bus Service Operators Grant as part of the spending review. Decisions will be made, and announced, in due course.

Cycling: Safety

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent encouraging cyclists to wear cycle helmets in each of the last five years. [7770]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* Over the last five years the Department for Transport has spent some £2.489 million on Think! Child road safety campaigns which encouraged, among other things, children to wear cycle helmets. Additionally, the Highway Code, which is a priced publication but can be viewed free online, advises cyclists to wear a cycle helmet.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7336]

Norman Baker: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3647]

(2) how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3669]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department for Transport's review of its contractual commitments is still ongoing and we are not therefore in a position to release such details at this time. We are also working with the Office of Government Commerce to ensure that the Department for Transport's strategy is aligned with wider Government policy.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7587]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and therefore no records exist for the Department prior to that date.

The following tables show all the available data for expenditure incurred on electricity, heating, water and telephone services by the Department, its agencies and NDPBs since 2002-03.

Electricity

£

Organisation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Central Department	282,349	312,541	400,220	632,958	665,010	626,723	787,165	789,574
Executive agencies	504,400	8,835,198	14,319,363	14,436,795	22,510,902	20,110,874	31,141,724	28,584,802
NDPBs	343,544	389,367	389,577	1,001,998	1,298,016	1,282,005	1,435,203	1,717,047

The increase in expenditure for NDPBs in 2005-06 is due to British Transport Police joining the Department that year. The rise in costs for executive agencies in 2008-09 is due in the main to Highways Agency's increased roll-out of technology across the network and an understatement of their costs in 2007-08 which were subsequently captured in 2008-09.

Heating

£

Organisation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Central Department	28,967	31,323	21,565	54,711	45,686	42,577	70,385	30,817
Executive agencies	156,855	365,588	414,404	544,587	633,421	1,073,948	1,943,480	1,741,444
NDPBs	87,157	73,077	96,989	273,785	193,656	214,964	315,355	263,103

The rise in costs for executive agencies in 2007-08 is due to this being the first year all agencies had been able to separate out heating costs from general building running costs. Previous years only contain the figures for five of our seven agencies. The significant increase in 2008-09 is as a result of the expansion of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency estate and the extended use of the combined heat and power plant.

Water

£

Organisation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Central Department	21,471	20,086	19,413	20,349	22,154	23,984	27,861	36,490
Executive agencies	104,221	248,858	258,971	324,183	285,101	730,215	724,490	603,911
NDPBs	54,799	29,948	42,769	112,911	122,473	101,460	147,770	149,899

The increase in expenditure for NDPBs in 2005-06 is due to British Transport Police joining the Department that year. The rise in costs for executive agencies in 2007-08 is due to this being the first year all agencies had been able to separate out water costs from general building running costs. Previous years only contain the figures for five of our seven agencies.

Telephone services

£

Organisation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Central Department	2,638,400	3,320,600	1,274,880	1,010,805	935,593	942,381	1,027,085	1,152,496
Executive agencies	954,893	3,714,319	3,767,352	7,956,737	8,163,348	8,698,173	9,043,539	8,082,496

Telephone services

Organisation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	£ *2009-10*
NDPBs	304,734	270,880	296,380	3,053,099	2,837,994	2,675,304	2,570,704	2,576,027

The increase in expenditure for NDPBs in 2005-06 is due to British Transport Police joining the Department that year. The increase in costs for executive agencies in 2005-06 is due to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency data for the previous years not being available. That data are published in their annual report and accounts under Telecommunications, which are available in the Libraries of the House.

The Department for Transport is committed to making efficiency savings and is currently planning to reduce its costs in line with Government targets.

Electric Vehicles

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the safety of electric personal assistive mobility devices; [9480]

(2) if his Department will bring forward proposals to allow the use of electric personal assistive mobility devices in cycle lanes. [9481]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has recently conducted three public consultations about possible changes to legislation affecting:

small electric personal vehicles,

electrically-assisted pedal cycles and

mobility vehicles (known in law as "invalid carriages").

A wide range of issues were covered, including safety and the use of cycle lanes and cycle tracks.

The findings of all three consultations will be considered carefully before any decisions on next steps are taken

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of providing *(a)* Secretaries of State, *(b)* Ministers of State and *(c)* Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State in his Department with (i) cars with a dedicated driver from the Government Car Service and (ii) cars from the Government car pool from May 1997 to May 2010. [5604]

Mike Penning: The annual contracted cost (excl. VAT) of providing Ministers with cars with a dedicated driver from the Government Car Service from April 2006 up to May 2010 was:

	April 2006-March 2007 incl.	*April 2007-March 2008 incl.*	*April 2008-March 2009 incl.*	*April 2009-March 2010 incl.*	£ *April 2010*
Secretary of State	68,065.60	69,966.00	73,237.79	39,204.48	0.00
Minister of State	66,237.18	64,104.60	71,747.12	70,550.05	5,746.93
Parliamentary-Under Secretaries of State	129,042.35	138,661.85	144,266.43	140,830.52	11,493.86

The overall cost for Department for Transport Ministers for 2005-06 financial year is detailed in a written ministerial statement available in the Libraries of the House. To provide details prior to 2005-06 financial year would incur disproportionate cost.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* Secretaries of State, *(b)* Ministers of State and *(c)* Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State in his Department were allocated a car from the Government car pool during the period from May 1997 to May 2010. [5687]

Mike Penning: The Ministers in this Department allocated a car from the Government Car Service from April 2006 up to May 2010 are:

Secretary of State

Alistair Darling

Douglas Alexander

Ruth Kelly

Geoff Hoon

Lord Adonis

Minister of State

Stephen Ladyman

Rosie Winterton

Lord Adonis

Sadiq Khan

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Derek Twigg

Tom Harris

Gillian Merron

Jim Fitzpatrick

Paul Clark

Chris Mole

Details can be provided prior to 2006-07 financial year only at disproportionate cost.

M1: Derbyshire

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason cameras are situated on a bridge over the M1 motorway in the vicinity of Tibshelf services; what the purpose of the cameras is; and if he will make a statement. [9137]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* There are two bridges which cross the M1 within the vicinity of Tibshelf services. Newton Wood Lane Bridge, which carries an unclassified road, is situated 0.25 miles south of the services.

There are no cameras located on this bridge. However, the Highways Agency does have a closed circuit television camera situated a further 0.25 miles south of Newton Wood Lane Bridge. This is directly linked to the East Midlands Regional Control Centre and is used for traffic monitoring purposes.

The B6014 Mansfield Road Bridge is situated 0.5 miles north of the services. The cameras installed on this bridge are the responsibility of Derbyshire Police and not the Highways Agency. Any queries regarding their purpose should be directed to Derbyshire Police.

Merchant Shipping

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 14WS, on Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations, what impact assessments his Department undertook in relation to the effect of the regulations on *(a)* environmental protection, *(b)* economic growth and *(c)* harbour authorities. [8617]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport's Maritime and Coastguard Agency has undertaken one impact assessment on the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010. The impact assessment, and the explanatory memorandum to which it is appended, may be accessed on the Office of Public Sector Information website by means of the following link:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/em/uksiem_20101228_en.pdf

The Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010 were laid before Parliament on 9 April 2010, and the first tranche of provisions was due to come into force on 1 October 2010.

The shipping and ports industry, and some MPs, expressed concern about aspects of the regulations. Other MPs expressed support for the regulations in their current form.

On 8 July 2010, through a written ministerial statement, I announced a review and invited all interested parties to set out their views on the regulations by 30 September 2010.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many MOT testing stations for taxis or private hire vehicles there are in each local authority area in England and Wales. [9273]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) does not hold this information as taxis can be issued with a Certificate of Compliance by an authorised council. Issue of this certificate is administered locally, and not held on VOSA central records.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to phase roadworks on motorways so that motorists do not have to face consecutive sets of roadworks over a short distance; and if he will make a statement. [9136]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* National guidance to all highway authorities about the minimum distance between road works sites on motorways is given in Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 8 paragraphs D3.5.2 to D3.5.4 and Table 3.3. For standard works this is 6.2 miles and for off-peak works this is 3.1 miles.

For some sites where there are several distinct work locations along a short length of motorway, it may be safer for both road users and road workers to have a continuous length of temporary traffic management (such as cones) than to individually sign and protect each site. If it is not reasonably practical to alter the construction sequence then a highway authority may accept having several sets of road works spaced more closely than recommended in the guidance. If this occurs, the site specific risk assessment for each set of works must take into account the effect of the other sets of work on both road user and road worker safety.

To avoid problems with driver fatigue, sites longer than 6.2 miles should be avoided.

Railways

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the re-opening of closed rail lines; and which closed lines have been identified for re-opening since May 2010. [4423]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have made clear that their most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit. The scope for future rail investment will depend on decisions that will be made in the comprehensive spending review in the autumn. In these circumstances we have not identified any closed lines for re-opening since May 2010.

Railways: Construction

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on a moratorium on construction on disused rail lines. [4422]

Mrs Villiers: Planning Policy Guidance (PPG13) gives guidance on the safeguarding of transport routes. We are considering issues around disused rail paths but have not yet had discussion with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government. In due course, the Government will publish and present to Parliament a consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities.

Railways: Finance

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what cost-benefit analysis model is being used to decide which rail projects will go ahead; and what the implications are of that model for the timetable for Bromsgrove's new railway station; [6859]

(2) if he will give precedence to railway infrastructure projects that are assessed to have benefits for the environment as well as the economy. [6861]

Mrs Villiers: Important transport projects which need Government funding are currently assessed using the New Approach to Transport Appraisal (NATA). The Government are aware of the crowding issues the Bromsgrove station project would address. In assessing the case for funding the project, we will need to take into account value for money and the relative priority of the improvements proposed, as compared to competing programmes elsewhere. The decision on this issue will also be affected by the need to tackle the deficit inherited from the previous Government and the resulting constraints on the availability of funds. This will depend on the outcome of the spending review.

An assessment of the expected environmental benefits associated with different infrastructure proposals forms part of the process undertaken to reach investment decisions. The objective of collecting and assessing information on environmental benefits, alongside other relevant factors such as economic growth potential and safety issues, is to ensure that decisions are based on a full assessment of value for money. The coalition agreement contains a commitment to further reform the way decisions are made on which transport projects to prioritise, so that the benefits of low carbon proposals are fully recognised.

Railways: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from local authorities in the west midlands on the potential effect of a Midlands Metro link between Dudley and Brierley Hill on the volume of traffic on major roads in the region. [9614]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has received no such representations.

Retford Railway Station: Parking

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 373W, on Retford railway station: parking, what record was made of the meeting of 24 March 2010 at his Department attended by the hon. Member for Bassetlaw on rail services to Retford and car parking at Retford station. [8910]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* I regret that there was an inaccuracy in the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 8 July.

Since my previous response, I have been informed that the hon. Member met with Chris Mole, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, on 24 March 2010 and car parking at Retford station was discussed. This should have been identified as a representation in my earlier answer. Please accept my apologies for the error.

The East Coast Main Line Company (ECML Co) has recently conducted a car park review on the East Coast route at the request of the Department. Retford station has one of the busiest car parks on the East Coast route with limited available capacity. The review concluded that due to the extensive availability of on-street parking and competitive independent off-street parking additional capacity provision by ECML Co was not felt to be urgently needed at this time.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Attorney-General what steps he has taken to reduce the cost of running the Law Officers' Departments since his appointment. [9275]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officers' Departments take very seriously the need to make necessary savings in the operation of public services. To contribute to the £6 billion in year cross-Government efficiency savings, we announced on 24 May that the Departments will make extra savings of nearly £18 million during the current financial year (approximately 2.5%).

In addition, the Law Officers' Departments are currently conducting a cross-departmental feasibility study to evaluate opportunities to make cashable savings in:

Collaborative procurement
Shared IT
Estates rationalisation
Shared corporate services
Shared transactional services.

That project is expected to report shortly and outcomes will be taken forward in conjunction with Treasury guidance.

PRIME MINISTER

Engagements

Q11. **Mr Allen:** To ask the Prime Minister what recent changes to the machinery of government he has made to enable the implementation of early intervention policies. [9858]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

There is renewed interest and a great deal of work on early intervention going on across Government.

We have created a Cabinet Sub-committee on Social Justice, chaired by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, which will drive forward this work. The Childhood and Families Task Force chaired by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, and which I attend, will also take a keen interest in these important issues.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the adequacy of resourcing and funding of electoral services and electoral registration departments in local authorities. [9195]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an assessment. However, as part of its work in developing performance standards for electoral services, the Electoral Commission launched its financial information survey across Great Britain on 10 September 2007.

Electoral registration officers and returning officers were asked to complete the survey and return it by 31 July 2008, and again in July 2009. I understand that the Commission has published its report "The Cost of Electoral Administration in Great Britain", based on survey findings and covering the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years. The report is now available on the Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/financial-information

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Kirklees

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the level of carbon dioxide emissions in the Kirklees local authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [8344]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* DECC has carbon dioxide emissions data for the Kirklees local authority area from 2005 to 2007. DECC does not hold emissions data for local authority areas before 2005, and 2008 data will be available this autumn.

Local authority CO_2 emission estimates, published as National Statistics, cover all domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural fuel and electricity use, as well as emissions associated with transport and land use change. This dataset shows that Kirklees have reduced their per capita emissions by 5.3% between 2005 and 2007 (Annex 1).

DECC also publishes National Indicator 186. This is a subset of the above statistics, which measures the percentage reduction of the per capita CO_2 emissions in the local authority area from the 2005 baseline year. This dataset involves the removal of emissions associated with motorways, diesel railways, land use, land use change, and forestry, and EU ETS, since these are emissions that LAs can be least expected to be responsible for. The National Indicator 186 dataset shows that Kirklees have reduced their per capita emissions by 7.4% between 2005 and 2007 (Annex 2, National Indicator 186).

Annex 1. Kirklees local authority CO_2 emissions estimates: 2005-07

	Carbon dioxide emissions by sector (kilo tonnes)					
	Industrial and Commercial	Domestic	Road Transport	Land Use Change	Total	Per Capita
2005	1,260	996	726	5	2,987	7.54
2006	1,229	992	717	4	2,941	7.39
2007	1,175	956	728	4	2,862	7.14

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2007_local/2007_local.aspx

These data show 5.3% reduction in per capita emissions since 2005.

Annex 2. Kirklees Local Authority National Indicator 186 CO_2 emissions estimates: 2005-07

	Carbon dioxide emissions by sector (kilo tonnes)				
	Industrial and Commercial	Domestic	Road Transport	Total	Per Capita
2005	1,112	996	459	2,568	6.49
2006	1,081	992	450	2,523	6.34
2007	1,000	956	455	2,411	6.01

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/indicators/ni186/ni186.aspx

These data show 7.4% reduction in per capita emissions since 2005.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up and (ii) cost to his Department and its predecessors of such attendance in each such year. [9050]

Gregory Barker: DECC does not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends Civil Service Live. This information is managed by a private company (Dods) and they maintain the delegate registration.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live. Any travel and subsistence costs would be claimed in accordance with our departmental guidance.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8226]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 19-20W, and to the hon. Member for York Central (Hugh Bayley) on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 240W.

As set out in the Ministerial Code Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Nuclear Development Forum

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who attended the Nuclear Development Forum held on 15 July 2010; what estimate he has made of the cost to the Office for Nuclear Development of hosting the Forum; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each paper submitted for discussion or information at the Forum by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* others attending. [10131]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* A copy of the attendee list for the Nuclear Development Forum held on 15 July is available on the forum's website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/nuclear/new/develop_forum/develop_forum.aspx

All other papers submitted for information or discussion have either been made available on the website or will be shortly.

The estimated cost of hosting the Nuclear Development Forum on 15 July was £1,520.00.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BBC External Services

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to assume responsibility for funding the BBC World Service. [9976]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: All future expenditure will be considered during the comprehensive spending review.

British Council: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to assume responsibility for funding the British Council. [9992]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) will cover the official development assistance (ODA) element of core British Council grant in aid funding in 2010-11. This was already classified as ODA and meets the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) rules for aid spending. DFID funding for future years is being reviewed as part of wider spending round discussions.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9250]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not maintain records on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors. In line with the Government's policy to improve supplier payment, DFID routinely pays its suppliers within 10 days in over 90% of transactions.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9047]

Mr Duncan: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. Departments do not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events, but staff are eligible to claim travel and subsistence costs in line with departmental guidance.

Departmental Pay

Mr Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimates his Department makes of the level of emoluments it pays to locally-engaged staff; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the level of such emoluments is in line with that paid to locally-engaged staff of other Departments. [10151]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The pay bill for locally engaged staff employed by the Department for International Development (DFID), known as Staff Appointed in Country (SAIC), for the 2009-10 financial year was £14.9 million.

The pay and benefits of SAIC engaged by DFID are determined by reference to the salaries and other benefits offered by up to 12 comparator organisations within the local labour market. The comparators include large international organisations, diplomatic missions, other aid agencies and reputable local employers.

Comprehensive pay reviews typically take place every three years, with interim reviews being undertaken annually to ensure that pay rates remain within the mid-market position.

In 2008, the Cabinet Secretary mandated DFID and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to bring the pay and benefits of their respective locally engaged staff into close alignment. DFID and FCO now conduct joint pay reviews in those countries where both organisations have a presence, based on the principles outlined above. A large proportion of local staff employed by other Government Departments are recruited and paid according to the FCO's locally set terms and conditions of service, ensuring equality on emoluments.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's total *(a)* capital and *(b)* current spending was in each year since 1995 in (i) cash and (ii) constant prices; how many full-time equivalent (A) UK-based and (B) locally-engaged staff his Department employed in each such year; and how much his Department spent on consultants (1) contracted to his Department and (2) employed by other organisations under contract to his Department in each such year. [10145]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The following table shows net operating costs and the annual average full-time equivalent staff (UK-based and locally engaged) as set out in DFID's Resource Accounts. These figures have been restated using HMT GDP deflators to constant prices as at 2010-11. Figures are not available on a comparable basis before the creation of DFID in 1997.

Financial year	*Net operating cost as per resource accounts (£000)*	*At constant price (£000)*	*Total FTE*
1995-96	n\a	n\a	n\a

Financial year	*Net operating cost as per resource accounts (£000)*	*At constant price (£000)*	*Total FTE*
1996-97	n\a	n\a	n\a
1997-98	1,582	2,157	n\a
1998-99	1,770	2,302	n\a
1999-2000	2,717	3,466	2,260
2000-01	3,097	3,951	2,270
2001-02	2,447	3,082	2,530
2002-03	2,733	3,366	2,807
2003-04	2,959	3,531	2,874
2004-05	3,252	3,774	2,902
2005-06	3,892	4,395	2,802
2006-07	4,714	5,228	2,660
2007-08	4,546	4,878	2,563
2008-09	5,205	5,430	2,400
2009-10	6,050	6,141	2,383

DFID's resource accounts from 2001-02 onwards report capital spending as follows:

Financial year	*Net operating cost as per resource accounts (£000)*	*At constant price (£000)*
2000-01	27	34
2001-02	20	25
2002-03	17	21
2003-04	27	33
2004-05	755	876
2005-06	20	23
2006-07	694	769
2007-08	739	793
2008-09	876	914
2009-10	1,353	1,373

From April 2006, grants to certain International Financial Institutions were reclassified as Capital Del for budget purposes, but continue to be included as a resource cost in the accounts and the estimates.

DFID's annual reports state that the numbers of Home civil service and staff appointed in country at the end of each financial year were as follows:

	Home civil service	*Staff appointed in country*
March 2005	1883	989
March 2006	1801	932
March 2007	1719	865
March 2008	1612	834
March 2009	1600	759
March 2010	1573	764

Figures are not available on a comparable basis for earlier years DFID's financial management system shows spending on consultants for the last three years as follows:

	Consultancy spending (£000)
2007-08	21,200
2008-09	24,500
2009-10	19,100

Information on a comparable basis is not available for earlier periods. Amounts recorded in DFID systems as consultancy include some items which fall outside the definition of consultancy from the Office of Government Commerce. DFID is now working to bring its account coding system in line with the Office of Government Commerce definition.

Departmental Secondment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to increase the number of officials seconded from his Department to the EU institutions. [9283]

Mr Duncan: At present there are around 19 officials seconded from the Department for International Development (DFID) to EU institutions. DFID focuses on posts where we can have real impact in terms of UK priorities for aid policy and delivery.

DFID may also propose staff for development-related posts in the European External Action Service (EEAS), once it is established. This will be co-ordinated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Developing Countries: Water

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase access to safe water in developing countries. [8971]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports programmes relating to water and sanitation in 23 countries. Last year UK aid enabled approximately 2.7 million of the world's poorest people to gain access to clean water and 1.8 million to basic sanitation.

The Secretary of State has recently commissioned a review of DFID's aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals (MDGs), including the targets for water and sanitation.

"The Coalition: our programme for government" clearly states that we will prioritise aid spending targeting access to clean water and sanitation. To achieve this we will place a high priority on targeting the countries that are most off-track in achieving the MDGs.

International Assistance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his objectives are for the side event on education at the UN summit on the millennium development goals in New York. [9986]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There are a number of side events on education planned for the UN summit in September. Specific details of these are still emerging.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 417W, on developing countries, what objectives the Government have set for the action agenda for the September 2010 UN summit on the millennium development goals. [10133]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK is making every effort to ensure that the action agenda for the United Nations summit reflects the following eight priorities for action, as set out in the international assessment of what is needed to meet the millennium development goals: fostering inclusive economic growth; supporting country-led development; increasing public investments in education, health and sanitation; scaling-up social protection programmes; investing in expanded opportunities for women; promoting low-carbon development; accelerating domestic resource mobilisation; and delivering on ODA commitments.

In addition we will be looking to secure an accountability mechanism to monitor progress and the delivery of commitments made at the summit.

Kashmir: Overseas Aid

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department sponsors in Kashmir; and how much it spent in Kashmir in the last 12 months. [9347]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In India, the Department for International Development (DFID) funds Save the Children (SCF), which is working in India-Administered Kashmir, with five local NGOs on education and child protection, particularly for children affected by conflict. The total allocation for our work with these NGOs, funded through SCF, is £337,000 for the period 2009-14.

In Pakistan, as part of our £84 million earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation programme, DFID is financing the building of 15 new schools and 40 bridges in Pakistan-Administered Kashmir. DFID funds have also assisted in the rebuilding of 450,000 houses destroyed or damaged by the earthquake.

DFID also supports national programmes in both countries that work in and benefit Kashmir, including health and education programmes.

Overseas Aid

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether expenditure on *(a)* refugees and *(b)* overseas students in the UK will be included in levels of official development assistance reported by his Department. [9983]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: "The Coalition: our programme for government" states that the Government will stick to the rules laid down by the OECD about what spending counts as aid. We are working with the DAC to develop clarification of its statistical reporting directives, particularly around expenditure on refugees, and will publish as soon as possible details of the adjustments required to our reporting.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) when he expects to begin the My Aid scheme; [10224]

(2) how much funding from the public purse he expects to allocate to the My Aid scheme. [10225]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The commitment to

> "create new mechanisms to give British people a direct say in how an element of the aid budget is spent"

was laid out in "The Coalition: our programme for government". Further details are being developed and will be shared with Parliament in due course.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to publish his Department's reviews of *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral aid. [10226]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I expect to publish conclusions from both the Bilateral Aid Review and Multilateral Aid Review by early 2011.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what terms of reference he has established for his Department's reviews of *(a)* bilateral, *(b)* multilateral and *(c)* humanitarian aid. [10227]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The aim of the Bilateral Aid Review is to establish: the countries in which we should retain a presence, programmes which we should close and graduation strategies when closing; the overall rationale and sector priorities for the bilateral aid programme; results that should be prioritised in each country; levels of spending for each country to 2014; and the delivery mechanisms for bilateral aid.

The aim of the Multilateral Aid Review is to ensure that DFID gets maximum value for money from our contributions to multilateral organisations. This review will consider: the relevance of the multilateral organisations to HMG development objectives and their ability to deliver results in country; the extent to which they have delivered and demonstrated value for the money in the past; their plans going forward and the likelihood of reform to improve their effectiveness; and make recommendations for how DFID should engage with the multilaterals in future to increase value for money.

The Emergency Response Review will assess the UK Government's response to humanitarian emergencies. Key areas of focus will include value for money and impact; skills and expertise; co-ordination with UN, humanitarian organisations and the private sector; delivery of aid; co-ordination with the rest of Government; and use of new technologies.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department gave to Yemen in the latest period for which figures are available. [9167]

Mr Duncan: The amount of bilateral assistance provided to Yemen by the Department of International Development (DFID) is published in "Statistics on International Development", which is available on DFID's website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

DFID provided £19.3 million in bilateral assistance to Yemen in 2008-09.

The figure for 2009-10 will be published later this month in line with the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which projects in Yemen his Department was funding on 1 January 2010. [9168]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development was funding a total of eight projects on 1 January 2010. These projects are listed as follows.

Project	*Total budget (£ million)*	*Project time period*
Social Fund for Development	63.1	2004-10
Basic Education Development Project	15	2005-12
Secondary Education Development and Girls Access Programme	20	2009-14
Maternal and Newborn Health	4.5	2005-12
Justice and Policing	7.0	2008-13
Humanitarian Assistance Programme	4.5	2009-10
Government of Yemen Reform Agenda—Technical Advice on Communication	0.016	2009-10
International Finance Corporation Private Sector Development	8.9	2008-11

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Budget: Females

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will commission and publish research on how the provisions of the Budget will affect women. [6905]

Mrs May: I take this issue seriously. The Government Equalities Office has taken a range of measures to support other Departments in taking account of equality considerations when assessing policy options in the context of identifying departmental savings. This has included holding a series of advisory meetings with other Government Departments, organising a training seminar attended by the Regulator, the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Further seminars will be held over the summer.

I have no plans to commission separate work on how the provisions in the Budget will affect women.

SCOTLAND

Unemployment

15. **Jo Swinson** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the level of unemployment in Scotland. [8925]

David Mundell: The Government have already announced their plans for a radical reform of the welfare to work system and improved support for the unemployed through implementation of the work programme.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9248]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office encourages its contractors to pay their sub-contractors as quickly as possible. However, no information or statistics are held by the Scotland Office regarding this process.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7363]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established in its present form on 1 July 1999. Under the terms of its building leases the Office is required to maintain the buildings to an acceptable standard of decoration and repair. In the case of the Scotland Office's London premises this includes maintaining a grade one listed building of considerable architectural significance. The Scotland Office does not separately identify the costs of refurbishment from the routine repair and replacement of existing facilities. Over the period of the last 10 years, the Office has shared its accommodation with a number of other Government Departments.

The following figures show the gross total for repairs and maintenance of Scotland Office buildings, but does not include the contribution by the Departments towards their share of the costs.

	Expenditure (£)
1999-2000	150,354
2000-01	224,719
2001-02	179,335
2002-03	99,310
2003-04	179,853
2004-05	374,129
2005-06	331,803
2006-07	355,071
2007-08[1]	1,011,254
2008-09	401,010
2009-10	224,891

[1] Under the terms of the building leases the Office is required to maintain the buildings to an acceptable standard of decoration and repair, which in 2007-08 included roof and exterior repairs to Dover House in London.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7514]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The office does not separately record the purchase of electrical devices and therefore the information requested for the early years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The spend on televisions from 2007-08 has been identified and is shown in the following table:

	Spend (£)
2007-08	2,076
2008-09	341
2009-10	0

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7577]

David Mundell: The Office of the Advocate-General for Scotland provides any necessary legal advice to the Scotland Office; the Scotland Office has incurred no expenditure on legal advice from private solicitors.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7634]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on light bulbs.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7490]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since then, the only expenditure incurred by the office on departmental branding was £2,988 in 1999-2000.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7959]

David Mundell: During the period 12 May to 12 July 2010, the Scotland Office spent £12,986 on the Government Car Service.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8316]

David Mundell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7452]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the office has spent the following on hospitality:

	Expenditure (£)
1999-2000	[1]10,638
2000-01	41,275
2001-02	25,789
2002-03	41,782
2003-04	25,969
2004-05	18,420
2005-06	17,748
2006-07	23,411
2007-08	19,191
2008-09	15,158
2009-10	39,444

[1] Part year

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10119]

David Mundell: Scotland Office expenditure on hospitality for events hosted by each Ministers is as follows:

	May 2010	*June 2010 (£)*
The Secretary of State for Scotland	0	3,734
The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland	0	401

All expenditure incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9819]

David Mundell: All aspects of the running costs of the Scotland Office are subject to rigorous and systematic review as a matter of course. All expenditure incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on security in each year since 1997. [7382]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established in its present form on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the office has incurred the following expenditure on security:

	Expenditure (£)
1999-2000	[1]59,921
2000-01	169,654
2001-02	136,307
2002-03	146,628
2003-04	178,607
2004-05	185,172
2005-06	183,924
2006-07	184,492
2007-08	209,119
2008-09	243,327
2009-10	237,585

[1] Part year

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7471]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Scotland Office provides support services to the Office of the Advocate-General for Scotland (OAG) and prior to 2003-04, separate records were not maintained for the two Offices. The spend on stationery was as follows:

	Expenditure (£)
1999-2000[1,2]	22,207
2000-01[2]	25,270
2001-02[2]	24,478
2002-03[2]	25,294
2003-04	16,858
2004-05	11,314
2005-06	16,415
2006-07	17,955
2007-08	18,943
2008-09	19,468
2009-10	17,922

[1] Part year.

[2] Scotland Office and OAG

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on employee away days in each year since 1997. [7329]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the office held one staff away day in 2005-06, one in 2006-07, one in 2008-09, and one in 2009-10. The costs of each were £2,457 in 2006-07, £2,660 in 2008-09, and £557.48 in 2009-10.

Information on the costs prior to 2006-07 are not separately identifiable.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on employee training since 1997. [7656]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the following has been spent on training:

	Expenditure (£)
1999-2000	10,846
2000-01	21,364
2001-02	10,058
2002-03	25,202
2003-04	23,483
2004-05	11,123
2005-06	13,370
2006-07	13,969
2007-08	14,041
2008-09	23,165
2009-10	25,297

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on travel for its employees in each year since 1997. [7433]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Travel costs for Scotland Office officials from that date are shown in the table.

	Expenditure (£)
1999-2000[1,2]	168,236
2000-01[1]	299,279
2001-02	219,876
2002-03	241,529
2003-04	181,872
2004-05	140,185
2005-06	146,087
2006-07	146,204
2007-08	138,025
2008-09	156,530
2009-10	165,957

[1] In our earlier years, the costs of the Scotland Office were not discernable from those of the Office of the Advocate-General. Therefore, the costs shown for the first two years include the costs of both Offices.

[2] Part year

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7960]

David Mundell: The Ministerial Code sets out use of official cars. Paragraph 10.12 states that Ministers are permitted to use an official car for official business and for home to office journeys within a reasonable distance of London on the understanding that they would normally be carrying classified papers on which they would be working.

In addition, the Government publish on a quarterly basis the expenses incurred by the most senior officials which includes use of the Government car service and other travel expenses.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members' Staff: Data Protection

Glenda Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what legal advice the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority obtained on its publication of names and salaries of hon. Members' staff. [10206]

Mr Charles Walker: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has informed me that it is not its practice to confirm whether or not legal advice has been obtained, or to release details of such legal advice where it has been obtained. No Members' staff names and salaries have yet been published as the policy on publication has yet to be finalised following the public consultation. The policy on publication will be announced in due course.

Members' Staff: Pay

Mr Allen: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how many staff working for hon. Members *(a)* were not paid and *(b)* did not receive the correct amount of pay in (i) May and (ii) June 2010; and what steps the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is taking to correct this. [9864]

Mr Charles Walker: In May, 17 members of MPs' staff did not receive their salary, and one member of staff received an incorrect salary, out of a total number of 156 staff then on the IPSA payroll. These equate to 11% and 0.7% of the total number of staff members. For June, the figures were 81 and six respectively out of 2,345 members of staff, or 3.5% and 0.3% of the total number.

IPSA has identified a number of reasons for these errors. These reasons were: the complications of creating the payroll with information provided by different sources and in different formats; incomplete information; late amendments to pay details and new contracts being issued. IPSA does not anticipate these problems continuing.

Members: Data Protection

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what assessment has been made of the extent of liability of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) for any financial implications for hon. Members in the event of the alleged unauthorised disclosure of personal details by the Authority. [10139]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible for IPSA to provide a response to this question by the named day. IPSA will respond as soon as possible.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what assessment has been made of the implications for hon. Members of the alleged unauthorised disclosure of their personal information by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and if he will make a statement. [10140]

Mr Charles Walker: An IPSA administrative report was temporarily available on the secure expenses website. IPSA removed the report immediately this was disclosed, notified the Information Commissioner, and ordered immediate changes by its IT contractor. IPSA will have these changes audited by a third party.

IPSA takes these matters very seriously. However, no sensitive personal data were made available to the public, the report was only available for a short period of time, and the report was accessed by only five MPs and six nominated proxies. These individuals are being contacted directly.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what steps will be taken by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to notify hon. Members in cases where personal details have been placed on the Authority's website and were accessible to other hon. Members and their staff. [10141]

Mr Charles Walker: An IPSA administrative report was temporarily available on the secure expenses website. IPSA removed the report immediately this was disclosed, notified the Information Commissioner, ordered immediate changes by its IT contractor and will have these changes audited by a third party. The report was only available for a short period of time, and the report was accessed by only five MPs and six nominated proxies. These individuals are being contacted directly.

If personal data had been made available to the public, IPSA would notify the Members concerned. However, this has not happened.

Members: Security

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has sought advice on the security implications for hon. Members following the alleged unauthorised disclosure of their personal details. [10088]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA has not sought advice specifically on the security implications for hon. Members. The information was released only to a small number of MPs and their nominated proxies through the Expenses@Work system. IPSA takes incidents such as this extremely seriously and is now conducting a full investigation to determine the exact types of data that were exposed and what the scope of exposure was. When it has this information, IPSA will review the implications and take any appropriate action.

Standards

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what sanction can be applied to staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority where *(a)* a substantive reply to an hon. Member is not given and *(b)* a payment to an hon. Member is not processed within a reasonable time. [10009]

Mr Charles Walker: There are no penalties. IPSA is currently dealing with very large volumes of queries and claims. While this is having an effect on the average time required to process queries and claims, IPSA is confident that the average will reduce significantly over time.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions since 1997 Royal Navy aircraft carriers have been used in humanitarian operations; and if he will make a statement; [9117]

(2) what his assessment is of the role of Royal Navy aircraft carriers in *(a)* constituting a sea base and *(b)* projecting air power from the sea; and if he will make a statement; [9118]

(3) what contribution Royal Navy aircraft carriers have made to the campaign in *(a)* the Falklands, *(b)* the Gulf, *(c)* Afghanistan and *(d)* Iraq. [9119]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Royal Navy aircraft carriers operate as a sea base to embark a wide range of military capabilities, including fast jet aircraft, helicopters, ground troops and special forces elements. When land bases are unavailable or when host nation support has been denied, Royal Navy carriers make a significant contribution to multi-national sea-based forces by providing a secure platform from which operations ashore and in the maritime and air environments can be projected and sustained.

The aircraft carriers in the Falkland's Task Group formed the backbone of the UK's response as the only platform capable of delivering the required air power to secure eventual campaign success. Land basing was not an option; without the carriers and their air groups, the retaking of the Islands would have been an untenable aim.

UK aircraft carriers have operated in the Gulf on several occasions since 1991. They have been involved in the operations to police the No-Fly Zones in Southern Iraq and have been a significant and important part of the UK's coalition contribution and national diplomatic engagement in the region. UK operations in Afghanistan were initiated in 2001 by a sea-based operation. HMS Illustrious was one of the first British units in theatre at the start of the Afghanistan operation, providing the delivery of early entry land forces into theatre . In 2003, the British landing on the Al Faw peninsula (its major contribution in commencing operations in Iraq) was launched from HMS Ocean and from the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal.

The full list of Royal Navy aircraft carriers used in humanitarian operations since 1997 is as follows:

Date	*Forces involved*	*Area*	*Event*
26 August 1997	HMS Illustrious	Bay of Biscay	Launched helicopters to stand by French VLCC Once with engine room fire. Fire extinguished without outside assistance, but Illustrious stood by until Once was able to get under way.
7 December 1997	HMS Invincible	Mediterranean	In joint operation with Italian Navy, rescued crew of MV Megan after vessel suffered engine failure and was foundering in heavy seas 130 nautical miles east of Sicily.
7 May to 16 June 2000	HMS Illustrious	Sierra Leone	National Contingent Capability. UK Joint Operation mounted in support of the Government of Sierra Leone and to ensure safe evacuation of British nationals.
27 September 2000	HMS Invincible and Task Group	Mediterranean	Aided search and rescue operations following Greek passenger ferry disaster (MV Express Samina) off the Greek Island of Paros.
July to August 2006	HMS Illustrious	Lebanon	Evacuation of British Nationals and other entitled persons.
April 2010	HMS Ark Royal	Spain	HMS Ark Royal was standing by to provide assistance in the rescue of entitled military and civilian personnel stranded by volcanic ash cloud.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much on average was paid by service personnel for *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living service accommodation in the last 12 months. [9626]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many families have been evicted from service family accommodation in each of the last five years; and for what reason in each such case. [9636]

Mr Robathan: Service family accommodation (SFA) is provided to accommodate entitled service personnel and their families.

When occupants cease to be entitled to SFA and do not vacate, the Department is required to take steps to recover possession in order for properties to be returned to their intended purpose. In the first instance, Defence Estates (DE) will write to occupants advising that they are required to vacate the property within 93 days. DE will be as flexible as possible, and will extend this so as to accommodate children's schooling, holidays, etc or to allow occupants as much time as possible to secure alternative accommodation arrangements.

Information on the number of eviction orders served on occupants of SFA in the last five years is set out in the following table by calendar year. Information is not held centrally for the whole of the UK until 2008. Information relating to evictions in Great Britain only is provided for the earlier years:

Period	*Number of eviction orders*
2005 (GB)	102
2006 (GB)	62
2007 (GB)	84
2008 (UK) from April	113
2009 (UK)	91
2010 (to 15 July) (UK)	35

Records showing the reasons why entitlement to SFA ceased in each case are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons eviction notices issued to tenants of service family accommodation use the term "violent trespass"; and if he will consider removing the reference. [9637]

Mr Robathan: So far as records show, the Ministry of Defence has not used the term "violent trespass" in any correspondence with occupants of service family accommodation.

We do however, recognise the term "violent profits", the Scottish legal equivalent of "damages for trespass", in regard to moneys owed by irregular occupants of service family accommodation in lieu of rental payments. For legal reasons we have no plans to cease using the term.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department provides to secure alternative accommodation for families vacating service accommodation. [9638]

Mr Robathan: All service personnel can access information held by the Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) throughout the country and overseas. The JSHAO offers financial advice for future housing options including access to the Government's affordable housing schemes where most service personnel have priority status that continues for 12 months post discharge date. Guidance was issued in Scotland in 2009 to ensure that service personnel are not disadvantaged when applying for social housing. Housing legislation was amended in 2008 in England to enable service personnel to gain a local connection through employment or residence while still serving when applying for social housing.

In addition, within each local Defence Housing Information Centre, there is a Tenancy Officer who can signpost the options available for families vacating service accommodation.

For single personnel Single Persons Accommodation Centre for Ex Services (SPACES) aims to assist single service leavers with securing accommodation. Our latest project 'The Beacon' in Catterick complements Mike Jackson House in Aldershot and The Galleries in Richmond which helps us to reduce the potential of a single person leaving the armed forces and becoming homeless.

Armed Forces: Officers

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers left service in *(a)* the Royal Navy, *(b)* the Army and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in each of the last six years. [10445]

Mr Robathan: The numbers of officers that have left the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force (excluding Gurkhas, full-time reserve personnel and mobilised reservists) in each of the last six years are listed in the following table:

Financial year	*Royal Navy*	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
2008-09	520	1,270	640
2007-08	580	1,490	760
2006-07	500	1,330	850
2005-06	520	1,070	700
2004-05	510	1,100	700
2003-04	470	950	620

Armed Forces: Parental Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many serving members of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force have taken paternity leave in the last 12 months; [8852]

(2) how many serving members of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force have taken maternity leave in the last 12 months. [8853]

Mr Robathan: The number of armed forces personnel who have taken either maternity or paternity leave, during the period 14 July 2009 until 13 July 2010 inclusive, broken down by service, is detailed in the following table:

	Absence type[1]	
	Paternity[2]	*Maternity*[3]
Army	1,170	880
Royal Navy[4]	250	330
RAF	890	560
Total	2,310	1,770

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Personnel are only counted once if they have had more than one instance of paternity leave during the 12 months. Personnel have been counted if they have had one day or more of paternity leave during the 12 months.
[3] Personnel are only counted once if they have had more than one instance of ordinary maternity leave and/or additional maternity leave during the 12 months. Personnel have been counted if they have had one day or more of either type of maternity leave during the 12 months.
[4] Includes Royal Marines.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on service personnel paying insurance premiums for their uniforms; and if he will make a statement. [8698]

Mr Robathan: Personnel are eligible to claim compensation from Ministry of Defence (MOD) for loss or damage to their own personal effects resulting from the exigencies of the service or from MOD negligence.

A wide range of personal kit and uniform is issued to service personnel, both on joining and throughout their careers. Personnel are made aware of the importance and availability of a variety of private personal insurance policies covering circumstances of loss for which they may be held liable, outside of those situations already covered by the MOD.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the use of bearskin pelts in ceremonial caps worn by service personnel; and if he will make a statement. [9644]

Peter Luff: The bearskin cap has been associated with the Guards Division since a Royal Warrant was issued by King George III in 1768. Ceremonial caps will continue to be manufactured from bearskin pelts until such time as a suitable or practical faux alternative is identified by industry. We welcome proposals from manufacturers for caps of the same design made from alternative materials. Indeed, two caps made from faux fur were subject to a full trial by the Guards Division in 2005, but their performance was disappointing and they were rejected as unsuitable. To be acceptable, any alternative would need to meet or exceed the affordability and performance standards of the natural bearskin cap.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to assess *(a)* export potential, *(b)* fire resistance and *(c)* the number of jobs likely to be created or retained in the UK as part of its evaluation of the new light protected patrol vehicle. [8641]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* The objective of the light protected patrol vehicle (LPPV) programme is to meet the capability requirement of the armed forces and to do this by selecting the compliant tender which offers the best value for money. Fire resistance is one of many safety and legislative requirements that are assessed. Both of the current solutions for the contract are UK designed and developed and will be manufactured in the UK. It is anticipated, therefore, that whichever company is successful in winning the contract, it will create and sustain jobs in the UK. The LPPV will have strong export potential. HMG will provide maximum support to any export campaigns.

Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* residents of Arborfield and *(b)* Wokingham borough council on the relocation of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. [9720]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Officials of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) are in regular discussions with Wokingham borough council and adjoining landowners to prepare a planning application for Arborfield Garrison that includes the redevelopment and re-use of the land in accordance with the council's core strategy vision.

However, the preparation and evaluation of options for a redevelopment scheme have meant that there have only been limited opportunities for discussion recently. Once the scheme has progressed to a suitable point, it is MOD's intention to hold an open exhibition at Arborfield Garrison as part of a wider consultation seeking public views on the emerging scheme. This will probably take place later this year.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the use of Arborfield Garrison following the departure of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. [9721]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Arborfield Garrison forms part of a wider area designated under current plans as a strategic development location in Wokingham borough council's core strategy, to accommodate a minimum of 3,500 dwellings as part of a mixed-use development.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to vacate Arborfield Garrison. [9722]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Under current plans for the Defence Training Rationalisation Project, elements of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers based at Arborfield Garrison will start vacating the site from 2014.

Defence Fire and Rescue Service

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the pay and benefit arrangements are for those employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its contractors to provide fire protection services on his Department's estate. [9754]

Mr Robathan: Ministry of Defence (MOD) fire-fighters' pay has an analogous link to local authority fire and rescue service pay rates. Their benefits are in line with MOD civil service policy.

Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel are paid and receive benefits in line with single service policy.

Locally employed civilians' pay and benefits depend on where they are employed. In Cyprus this is an assimilated link to the Republic of Cyprus Fire Service. In Gibraltar the link is to the UK Fire and Rescue Service. In Germany a collective tariff agreement is negotiated between the legal employer and the Higher Level Works Council.

Pay and benefits arrangements for contracted staff are a matter between the individual and the contractor.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what duty of care requirements there are upon his Department in respect of those employed to provide fire protection services by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* contractors engaged by his Department. [9755]

Mr Robathan: The duty of care requirements placed upon the Secretary of State for Defence in respect of those employed to provide fire protection services to the Department are based on the principles of the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations. This includes the provision of safe systems of work to personnel engaged in the delivery of Ministry of Defence (MOD) fire protection services, and is based on guidance and standards provided by Communities and Local Government, Chief Fire Officers' Association and what can be deemed to be best practice followed by the UK fire and rescue services. Some of these safe systems are developed to take account of the unique risks present across the MOD estate.

The duty of care to the contractor-provided fire protection services is primarily the responsibility of their employer, with the Department limiting its responsibilities to the standard of professional fire fighting training it provides to the contractor.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department incurred on its Fire Study in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2005. [9757]

Mr Robathan: Fire Study 2000 was commissioned in 1999 to review the Department's fire services and to develop an optimum organisation in line with structural changes elsewhere in the Department. The study ran for two years and incurred approximate costs of £700,000 primarily covering both civil servant and contractor manpower.

Fire Study 2000 was then subsumed within the Airfield Support Service Project (ASSP) Private Finance Initiative, (PFI) which included fire services. Following the cancellation of the ASSP PFI, Fire Study 2000 was reviewed and updated in the form of Fire Study 2005, prior to its implementation. Fire Study 2005 incurred approximate costs of £10,000 entirely for manpower.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fire incidents on his Department's property were attended by firefighters in each of the last 10 years. [9758]

Mr Robathan: The 10 years' worth of information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table shows figures which have been collated since the formation of the Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation.

	Number
2007 (May to December)	6,710
2008	9,260
2009	9,590
2010 (January to May)	4,160

A fire incident is defined as calls to buildings, vehicles, maritime vessels and outdoor structure, or any fire involving the rescue of people. These figures include false alarms.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget for payments to consultants to his Department is for 2010-11. [9209]

Mr Robathan: Summaries of Ministry of Defence (MOD) expenditure on external assistance, of which consultancy is a part, are available in the Libraries of both Houses for the years 1995-96 to 2008-09. The final spend for 2008-09 (the latest available figure) was £106 million. External assistance includes management consultancy, specialist lawyers, commercial bankers and IT expertise. Consultants can help to increase efficiency and effectiveness, but we employ them only when we cannot do the work ourselves and where we can demonstrate value for money.

The MOD's budget has a number of layers of delegated budgetary responsibility and budget holders make decisions as to their particular requirements to employ consultants on a case by case basis. All spend on consultancy will be in line with the tighter spending controls announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May 2010 and is expected to be a great deal lower than previous years.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7487]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As with all items of expenditure, what we spend on logo design must be necessary, appropriate, cost effective and an admissible charge to public funds. We are substantially reducing the number of logos, both to strengthen corporate identity and to save money.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7379]

Mr Robathan: Defence security is a process of risk management to which all who work in or with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) contribute in some form, and which is increasingly embedded in the general management of the MOD. It is not therefore possible to assess its overall cost with meaningful precision.

However, the costs of providing guarding and policing services by the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency (MDPGA), established on 1 April 2004, and of providing personnel vetting by the Defence Vetting Agency (DVA), have been as follows:

Financial year	*Net operating costs (£ million)*
2004-05	297
2005-06	324
2006-07	331
2007-08	334
2008-09	355

The 2009-10 operating costs of both Agencies are intended for publication in their annual report and accounts, due to be laid before Parliament before the summer recess.

The role of the MDPGA is to combat the crime and security risks faced by the armed forces and the MOD. The Agency has responsibilities for: the protection of the nuclear deterrent, business continuity, defensive armed policing, uniformed policing, guarding, crime investigation, international capability and policing and guarding policy.

The role of the DVA is to conduct national security vetting and risk-based personnel security assessments.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many temporary employees work in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* bodies financed from its budget. [9210]

Mr Robathan: In November 2009, the Defence Board implemented restrictions on the engagement of agency staff, also called Manpower Substitutes. The People Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA) provide a service to engage Manpower Substitutes for the Department, which covers:

Clerical and administration grades
Interim professional grades
Industrial and security grades

For other grades employed by the Ministry of Defence, individual business units are still making their own arrangements to engage agency staff in some circumstances. The number of temporary staff currently employed via the PPPA as of 15 July 2010 stands at 486.

The information for bodies funded by the Department is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee away days in each year since 1997. [7323]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8329]

Mr Robathan: The Government Car and Despatch Agency does not collect data relating to the mileage travelled by individual Ministers in a Government car.

Ex-servicemen: Mental Health Services

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken to provide psychological support to veterans who need it. [8699]

Mr Robathan: The Government are committed to providing effective, through-life health services for our service and ex-service personnel. The Prime Minister has asked Dr Andrew Murrison MP to conduct an independent study into the provision of Ministry of Defence (MOD) and national health service (NHS) support and services to the armed forces and ex-service personnel and to make recommendations for improvement particularly in the area of mental health.

NHS Veterans Community Mental Health Pilot schemes have also been established in six NHS trusts around the country. They are currently being evaluated with a report expected in the autumn. The findings of the evaluation report will inform broader roll-out of veterans' mental health services across the NHS in 2011-12. Additionally, the Medical Assessment Programme at St Thomas' Hospital in London is available to serving and former armed forces personnel who have deployed on operations since 1982.

The Government have also recently confirmed an additional £2 million to allow the Department of Health to work with strategic partners, including Combat Stress, to ensure the best possible treatment is available for veterans with mental health problems.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent meetings he has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and *(b)* Minister for the Cabinet Office on the proposed 10 per cent. reduction in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from the central Government estate in the next 12 months. [9648]

Mr Robathan: The Secretary of State for Defence has not had any recent meetings with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change or the Minister for the Cabinet Office. The Defence Minister for International Security and Strategy (Mr Howarth) attended a Ministerial Working Group on 10 June 2010 chaired by Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne). The working group was set up at the Prime Minister's direction to oversee the delivery of the Prime Minister's commitment earlier in the year to reduce central Government carbon emissions by 10% in 12 months.

Merlin Helicopters

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many naval Merlin helicopters are not due to be upgraded; and for what purposes such helicopters are to be used. [9483]

Peter Luff: The naval Merlin fleet currently comprises 42 aircraft of which four are in storage pending a decision on future use or disposal. On current plans we have agreed a contract with Lockheed Martin to upgrade 30 Merlin Mk1 s through the Merlin Mk1 Capability Sustainment programme. Further Mk1s may be modified or upgraded subject to the outcome of the strategic defence and security review.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many naval Merlin helicopters have been built; how many of these have been lost in *(a)* action or *(b)* accidents; and how many have been, or are to be struck off strength for any other reason. [9484]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has taken delivery of a total of 44 naval Merlin helicopters: none of these aircraft has been lost in action; two of these aircraft have been lost in accidents; of the remaining 42 naval Merlin aircraft, four are in storage pending a decision on their future use or disposal.

Met Office

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has defined the public task of the Met Office. [8092]

Mr Robathan: Yes, the Ministry of Defence has defined the Met Office's public task and it is published on their website:

www.metoffice.gov.uk

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: Databases

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the database used by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency to communicate with its clients is available for use by third parties. [10101]

Mr Robathan: The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency administers a number of databases that contain information on serving and former service personnel. Direct access to these is not available to third parties, but within strict parameters the Agency will pass on information from third parties to its clients. All such transactions are carried out in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and information assurance procedures.

CABINET OFFICE

Cabinet: Bradford

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* travel and accommodation, *(b)* venues hire and associated costs, *(c)* printed materials and *(d)* security arrangements in respect of the recent Cabinet meeting in Bradford. [8747]

Mr Maude: The central cost of the Cabinet meeting in Bradford was £3,029.50 including venue hire and associated costs.

Ministers combined their attendance with visits to services and projects in the area. Departments will have incurred additional costs associated with travel to Leeds station but this information is not held centrally by the Cabinet Office.

The only security provision was that provided by the police and the question of cost is one for the relevant police force.

Civil Servants: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants are employed by each *(a)* Department, *(b)* executive agency and *(c)* other employer in Bristol. [8670]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning, how many civil servants are employed by each (a) Department, (b) executive agency and (c) other employer in Bristol. (8670).

In order to provide the information requested for the number of civil servants employed by each department, executive agency and other employer in Bristol, ad hoc analysis has been required. This analysis is based on Civil Service Statistics 2009, the latest data available.

The requested data for Bristol are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Civil service employment in Bristol; (a) Departments (b) agencies (c) other employer[1,2]*—All employees*

	Headcount
(a) Departments	
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (excluding agencies)	30
Department for Children, Schools and Families	40
Department for Communities and local Government (excluding agencies)	90
Department for Culture Media and Sport (excluding agencies)	—
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (excluding agencies)	100
Department for Transport (excluding agencies)	20
Department for Work and Pensions (excluding agencies)	30
Department of Health (excluding agencies)	10
Home Office (excluding agencies)	20
Ministry of Defence	100
Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies)	40
Central Office of Information	20
Crown Prosecution Service	150
HM Revenue and Customs	890
Office for Standards in Education	750
Office of Rail Regulation	10
All employees	2,280
(b) Executive agencies	
Animal Health	40
Driving Standards Agency	20
Government Car and Despatch Agency	—
Highways Agency	240
HM Courts Service	240
Identity and Passport Service	10
Insolvency Service	50
Jobcentre Plus	1,010
Meat Hygiene Service	—
National Offender Management Service	380
Pensions Disability and Carers Service	220
Planning Inspectorate	810
Rural Payments Agency	30
The Rent Service	20
Tribunals Service	50
Valuation Office	70
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	360
Vehicle Certification Agency	90
All employees	3,630
(c) Other employer	
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	50
Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission	10
The Health and Safety Executive	60
All employees	120

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten, and numbers less than five are represented by '—'
2. These data exclude civil servants seconded to outside the civil service where the department is paying less than 50% of the individual's salary.
Source:
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants have conditions of employment that would entitle them to six years' salary on redundancy; and what criteria need to be fulfilled by a civil servant to have such an entitlement. [8660]

Mr Maude: Compensation on redundancy is payable to civil servants under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. The amount payable depends on age and length of service of the individual when they are made redundant. The Employers' Pensions Guide, issued by Cabinet Office to employers participating in the civil service pension arrangements, gives employers guidance on the current costs of redundancies, and shows the circumstances where packages worth six years' salary would be payable. The Employers' Guide is available on the civil service website

www.civilservice.gov.uk/pensions

and a current copy has been placed in the Library. Information on the number of civil servants who would currently get a package worth six years' salary if made redundant can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 3WS, for information on how the Government intend to limit the costs of future compensation payments.

Civil Service: Conferences

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the cost of *(a)* venue hire and *(b)* reimbursement of speakers for the Civil Service Live event was for the event in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010; [8983]

(2) what the cost to the public purse of maintaining the Civil Service Live website has been since its establishment; [8984]

(3) what the cost to the public purse of organising and running Civil Service Live was in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; [8985]

(4) how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9045]

Mr Maude: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by Dods (the publisher of Civil Service World). This year's event focused on efficiency and value for money. In its first year, 2008, the venue hire cost was £211,588 including VAT. In 2009 and 2010 the venue hire costs were covered by Dods. The Cabinet Office does not, therefore, hold any information on the venue costs for these years. The Cabinet Office has never paid speakers to speak at the event. The Civil Service Live website is owned and maintained by Dods and there are no costs to the public purse.

In terms of numbers of employees attending the event, the overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. The Cabinet Office does not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends.

Civil Service Live is a cost-effective way for civil servants of all grades to share ideas about innovative ways of working that will help them achieve more for less. It is free for all civil servants to attend. There will have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates, which will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by the Department.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information the Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by his Department to pay the invoices of its sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9262]

Mr Maude: The requirement to pay sub-contractors within 30 days is passed on to all contractors through the Department's standard terms and conditions of contract. However, the Department does not routinely monitor the prompt payment of sub-contractors. To do so would require individuals to establish contact with all suppliers to the Cabinet Office in order to ascertain their prompt payment times.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9891]

Mr Maude: The total remuneration paid to civil servants during the financial year 2009-10 amounted to £80.668 million. This is reported in the staff costs note to the Cabinet Office Resource Accounts 2009-10.

Flexible Working

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of employees who work flexible hours in businesses which employ *(a)* up to 10, *(b)* up to 50 and *(c)* over 250 members of staff. [6726]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the recent estimate is of the number of employees who work flexible hours in businesses which employ (a) up to 10, (b) up to 50 and (c) over 250 members of staff. (6726)

Information on employees who work flexible hours by workplace size is provided in the attached table. These estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates of business size are not available from the LFS.

The LFS is a survey of residents in private households and therefore excludes people living in communal establishments such as hostels and residential homes. As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number and percentage of employees[1] by workplace size[2] who work flexible hours—Three month periods ending December 2009: United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Level (Thousand)	Percentage
Up to 10	334	7
Up to 49	499	8
Between 50 and 249	1,028	18
Over 250	547	9
Don't know but under 25	29	5
Don't know but between 50 and 499	78	9

[1] excluding those on college based schemes.

[2] Refers to the total number of employees at the respondent's workplace, not the overall size of the employer.

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Markets: Manpower

Ann Coffey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the total number of people employed in *(a)* street markets, *(b)* fixed markets, *(c)* occasional markets and *(d)* wholesale markets. [9906]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the total number of people employed in (a) street markets, (b) fixed markets, (c) occasional markets and (d) wholesale markets. [9906]

The most recent estimates are for the three-month period January-March 2010 and estimate that 16,000 people were employed as market and street traders and assistants. A further breakdown of this occupation is not available.

These estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted. The LFS is a survey of residents in private households and therefore excludes people living in communal establishments such as hostels and residential homes.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Mortality Rates: Alcoholic Drinks

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mortality rate was for alcohol-related conditions in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [8882]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mortality rate was for alcohol-related conditions in (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [8882]

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population where the underlying cause was alcohol-related, in (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland, from 1999 to 2008 (the latest year available).

The figures for alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom by sex and broad age group, are published annually on the National Statistics website and are available for the years 1991 to 2008 at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14496&Pos&ColRank=l&.Rank=272

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population[1] with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[2], constituent countries of the United Kingdom[3], 1999 to 2008[4]

Persons

	England		Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland	
	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate
1999	4,942	10	323	10	1,249	23	174	11
2000	5,039	10	340	11	1,292	24	190	12
2001	5,479	10	385	12	1,398	26	206	13
2002	5,592	11	363	11	1,487	27	238	14
2003	5,984	11	412	12	1,525	27	214	13
2004	6,036	11	416	13	1,478	26	255	15
2005	6,197	11	406	12	1,513	27	246	15
2006	6,517	12	430	13	1,546	27	248	14
2007	6,544	12	477	14	1,399	25	283	16
2008	6,771	12	541	16	1,411	24	276	16

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1999 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards, for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and ICD-9 for the year 1999 and ICD-10 for the years 2000 to 2008 for Scotland. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following boxes.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death— International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	ICD-9 code
Alcoholic psychoses	291
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Non-dependent abuse of alcohol	305.0
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	425.5
Alcoholic fatty liver	571.0
Acute alcoholic hepatitis	571.1
Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	571.2
Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified	571.3
Chronic hepatitis	571.4
Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol	571.5
Other chronic non-alcoholic liver disease	571.8

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death— International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	*ICD-9 code*
Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol	571.9
Accidental poisoning by alcohol	E860

Box 2: Alcohol-related causes of death— International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

NDPBs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on his review of non-departmental public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [8883]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to reducing the number of public bodies to increase accountability and reduce costs. To this end, I am working with Departments to assess the public bodies that fall within their areas of responsibility against three tests: do they perform a technical function; do they require political impartiality; or do they act independently to establish facts. We expect to publish the outcome of this assessment in the autumn.

Perinatal Mortality

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many stillbirths were recorded in each local authority in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in the latest year for which figures are available. [9885]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many stillbirths were recorded in each local authority in (a) England, (b) Wales, (c) Scotland and (d) Northern Ireland in the latest year for which figures are available. [9885]

A stillbirth is defined as a child which has issued forth from its mother after the twenty-fourth week of pregnancy, and which did not at any time after becoming completely expelled from its mother breathe or show other signs of life.

The tables attached provide the number of stillbirths in 2008 (the most recent year for which figures are available) for each Local Authority in (a) England and Wales (Table 1); each Council Area in (b) Scotland (Table 2) and each Local Government District in (c) Northern Ireland (Table 3).

Table 1: Number of stillbirths in each local authority in England and Wales, 2008

Region	*Number*
England	3,427
North East	
County Durham UA	37
Darlington UA	7
Hartlepool UA	8
Middlesbrough UA	11
Northumberland UA	18
Redcar and Cleveland UA	5
Stockton-on-Tees UA	13
Gateshead	12
Newcastle upon Tyne	17
North Tyneside	19
South Tyneside	8
Sunderland	24
North West	
Blackburn with Darwen UA	15
Blackpool UA	16
Cheshire East UA	16
Cheshire West and Chester UA	24
Cumbria	13
Greater Manchester (Met County)	205
Bolton	30
Bury	11
Manchester	61
Oldham	15
Rochdale	13
Salford	17
Stockport	13
Tameside	10
Trafford	10
Wigan	25
Halton UA	8
Lancashire County	72
Merseyside (Met County)	69
Knowsley	12
Liverpool	25
Sefton	8
St Helens	9
Wirral	15
Solihull	11
Walsall	22
Wolverhampton	22
Worcestershire County	30

Table 1: Number of stillbirths in each local authority in England and Wales, 2008

Region	*Number*
East of England	
Bedford UA	6
Cambridgeshire	19
Central Bedfordshire UA	19
Essex	62
Hertfordshire	52
Luton UA	26
Norfolk	36
Peterborough UA	23
Southend-on-Sea UA	11
Suffolk	35
Thurrock UA	15
London	
Inner London	303
Camden	14
Hackney and City of London	29
Hammersmith and Fulham	11
Haringey	24
Islington	16
Kensington and Chelsea	10
Lambeth	37
Lewisham	32
Newham	37
Southwark	33
Tower Hamlets	15
Wandsworth	31
Westminster	14
Outer London	427
Barking and Dagenham	28
Barnet	25
Bexley	15
Brent	36
Bromley	29
Croydon	36
Ealing	32
Enfield	34
Greenwich	24
Harrow	12
Havering	10
Hillingdon	23
Hounslow	19
Kingston upon Thames	10
Merton	16
Redbridge	30

Table 2: Number of stillbirths[1] by council area, Scotland, 2008

Council area[2]	*Number*
Scotland	325
Aberdeen City	9
Aberdeenshire	14
Angus	8
Argyll and Bute	4
Clackmannanshire	2
Dumfries and Galloway	7
Dundee City	15
East Ayrshire	7
East Dunbartonshire	6
East Lothian	7
East Renfrewshire	4
Edinburgh, City of	26
Eilean Siar	0
Falkirk	10
Fife	30
Glasgow City	46
Highland	10
Inverclyde	6
Midlothian	3
Moray	8
North Ayrshire	5
North Lanarkshire	20
Orkney Islands	3
Perth and Kinross	10
Renfrewshire	9
Scottish Borders	8
Shetland Islands	0
South Ayrshire	5
South Lanarkshire	17
Stirling	6
West Dunbartonshire	8
West Lothian	12

[1] Stillbirths registered in 2008.

[2] By mother's area of usual residence.

Source:

General Registrar Office for Scotland:
http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/annual-report-publications/

Table 3: Number of stillbirths[1] by local government district, Northern Ireland, 2008

Local government district[2]	*Number*
Northern Ireland	115
Antrim	2
Ards	1
Armagh	3
Ballymena	4
Ballymoney	2
Banbridge	5
Belfast	18
Carrickfergus	2
Castlereagh	—
Coleraine	4
Cookstown	3
Craigavon	9
Derry	7
Down	4
Dungannon	6
Fermanagh	2
Larne	1
Limavady	1
Lisburn	11
Magherafelt	6
Moyle	1
Newry and Mourne	6
Newtownabbey	4
North Down	5
Omagh	4

Table 3: Number of stillbirths[1] by local government district, Northern Ireland, 2008

Local government district[2]	*Number*
Strabane	4

[1] Stillbirths registered in 2008.
[2] By mother's usual area of residence.
Source:
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Public Bodies Bill

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which public bodies will be affected by the proposed Public Bodies Bill; and whether he plans to undertake consultation on the proposals in that Bill. [9403]

Mr Maude: The proposed Public Bodies Bill will provide the legislative underpinning for the Government's commitment to increase the accountability of public bodies and reduce their number and cost. I am currently working with Departments to assess the public bodies that fall within their areas of responsibility against three tests: do they perform a technical function; do they require political impartiality; or do they act independently to establish facts. We expect to publish the outcome of this assessment in the autumn, and plan to introduce the Bill in October.

The House will have the opportunity to scrutinise reforms during the passage of any legislation to implement changes.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what powers he would have to use delegated legislation to merge or abolish non-departmental public bodies under the provisions in his Department's proposed Public Bodies Bill. [9404]

Mr Maude: The proposed Public Bodies Bill will provide the legislative underpinning for the Government's commitment to increase the accountability of public bodies and reduce their number and cost.

I intend that the Bill will grant enabling powers to Secretaries of State to make orders to abolish, merge, transfer or modify the functions of named public bodies as well as to make consequential provision for staff, property and pensions liability.

TREASURY

Academies: Finance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to make specific tax arrangements in respect of the *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funds of academy schools. [9489]

Justine Greening: The Government keep all taxes under review and any changes are considered as part of the normal Budget process. Academy trusts are exempted charities that can claim exemption from corporation tax. However, they are not exempt from VAT.

Bank Notes

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to inform the public of the withdrawal from circulation of the old £20 note. [9774]

Justine Greening: At the time of the introduction of the £20 note featuring Adam Smith in 2007, the Bank of England indicated that the £20 note featuring Sir Edward Elgar would be withdrawn in due course. The Bank announced on 8 March 2010 that the Elgar note would be withdrawn on 30 June 2010 and has since then undertaken a range of national and regional publicity. Further information is available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/twentyv/index.htm

Departmental Human Resources

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5097]

Justine Greening: The HR profession across Whitehall has only collected the cost of Human Resources for Departments against standard definitions from 2008 onwards.

For 2008-09 Treasury HR costs were 2.6% of organisational running costs, equivalent to £3.99 million in that year. These figures were published in December 2009 in 'Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government' (Cm7753). Figures for earlier years are not available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Residences

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any domestic properties in the gift of the Government have been allocated to the use of Ministers in his Department. [1786]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor of the Exchequer will have the use of the flat above number 10 Downing street. This is an official residence, used in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

He also has the use of Dorneywood. Dorneywood is managed by independent trustees for use as an official residence, as has been the case under successive Administrations.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9898]

Justine Greening: Details of the Department's spending on remuneration of permanent staff will be shown in the Department's 2009-10 Resource Accounts, which are due to be published shortly and will be available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

EC Budget

Mr Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will seek to hold discussions at EU level on reducing the EU budget by the same proportion as reductions in member states' national expenditure over the next EU budgetary period. [7863]

Justine Greening: The Commission's initial proposal for the EU budget over the next Financial Perspective, which runs from 2014-20, is expected early next year.

At a time of fiscal consolidation across many EU member states, it is only fair the EU budget plays its part. For this reason, we have been pressing for a freeze in the 2011 budget, and the Government expect the Commission's proposal for the next Financial Perspective to take account of fiscal consolidation efforts made across member states.

At the negotiation of the EU budget for the period 2014-20, the Government will strongly defend the UK's national interests, and ensure the budget is focused on those areas where the EU adds value.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Angela Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the proportion of *(a)* wine and *(b)* beer in the UK sold without the value added tax and excise duty having been paid in the latest period for which figures are available. [9916]

Justine Greening: The Department has an internal estimate for revenue losses due to fraud in beer. For 2006-07 estimated losses were between 7 and 11%. The methodology is still under development and therefore this estimate may be revised. Estimates for wine are not currently available.

Estimates for spirits in 2007-08 were published by HMRC in "Measuring Tax Gaps-2009" in November 2009 which is available in the House of Commons Library and at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm

Estimates for spirits and beer in 2008-09 will be published before the end of the year.

Angela Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost of all types of alcohol fraud to the Exchequer in the latest period for which figures are available. [9917]

Justine Greening: Estimates of the cost of alcohol fraud across all alcoholic beverages are not available.

Estimates of the cost of spirits fraud in 2007-08 were published by HMRC in "Measuring Tax Gaps—2009" in November 2009, which is available in the House of Commons Library and at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm

Estimates for spirits and beer in 2008-09 will be published before the end of the year.

Financial Institutions: Maladministration

Ann Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism is in place to investigate alleged maladministration by a financial institution against companies with an annual turnover of £1 million or over. [9908]

Mr Hoban: Various organisations and Government Departments including the Financial Services Authority, the Serious Fraud Office, the City of London Police, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office all have functions in connection with ensuring confidence in the UK's business and financial institutions and combating financial malpractice and crime. These bodies have wide-ranging investigatory and enforcement powers to combat fraud and corruption. Although these bodies each have their own remit, they work closely together to achieve the Government's aim of ensuring confidence in the UK market.

Office for Budget Responsibility

Mr Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role he plans to offer to the Treasury Select Committee in the appointment of the new Chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility. [10258]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor intends to provide in legislation for the Treasure Select Committee (TSC) to have the power of veto over the appointment of the Chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility. Before the legislation is passed, the Chancellor proposes that the TSC conduct a pre-appointment hearing of the proposed candidate and has committed to not appointing a candidate judged unsuitable by the TSC.

Office for Budget Responsibility: Public Appointments

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date Sir Alan Budd informed him of his intention to step down as Head of the Office for Budget Responsibility. [7945]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor's letter to Sir Alan Budd, which was published on 8 June, was clear that Sir Alan Budd had been appointed Chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility for an interim period.

Clause 6.1 of Sir Alan Budd's 13 May letter of appointment, which is available on the Treasury's website, states:

> "You will begin the service on 13/05/2010 and will continue for a period of 3 months..."

Public Sector: Construction

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills a working group to implement the recommendations on construction procurement in the public sector made in the National Audit Office report on Modernising Construction, HC (2000-01) 87. [8372]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The National Audit Office report on Modernising Construction was published in January 2001. In its subsequent 2005 report 'Improving Public Services through Better Construction' the NAO concluded that there had been

> "a considerable improvement in completing projects to time and cost and that real savings were being delivered, in particular, by departments and agencies which had adopted partnering and collaborative approaches to their construction work."

The Efficiency and Reform Group and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will continue to work closely with Government clients and their suppliers to identify and drive out waste and inefficiency in construction procurement.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the previous administration's programme for the closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices. [9653]

Justine Greening: The decisions to close 258 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices were made after extensive consultation and detailed feasibility work under the previous Government. There are no plans to revisit these decisions.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost to the customer of a telephone call to an HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) number with a 0845 prefix was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of HMRC 0845 numbers have an alternative geographic number. [9749]

Mr Gauke: The information around the average cost to the customer of a telephone call to its 0845 helplines is not available.

The cost of calls depends on:

the customer's tariff arrangements with their service provider;

the device they use for the call;

the location they call from; and

the length of the call.

At present, HMRC does not offer an alternative geographic number for customers telephoning its contact centres from within the UK.

HMRC is in the process of carrying out an in-depth review of its telephone numbering strategy, looking at ways to reduce the costs to customers whilst balancing the costs to HMRC and the performance of its contact centre network.

Tax Evasion

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the revenue lost to the Exchequer from tax evasion in each year since 2005; and what steps he is taking to reduce levels of tax evasion. [9907]

Justine Greening: HMRC estimates that the overall tax gap was £40 billion in 2007-08. In December 2009 HMRC published "Protecting Tax Revenues 2009":

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.pdf

which allocated this tax gap, using management assumptions, to different types of non-compliance. Evasion is shown to account for 17.5% of the tax gap. The hidden economy, a form of evasion where the source of income is unknown to HMRC, accounts for a further 7.5%. This document also sets out HMRC's compliance strategy and the approach to reducing the tax gap.

Estimates of the tax gap due to evasion for years prior to 2007-08 are not available.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide additional funding to HM Revenue and Customs to be used to reduce the level of tax evasion. [9910]

Justine Greening: The Government take tax evasion seriously. The Government's spending plans, including those for HM Revenue and Customs, will be set out in the spending review.

Unpaid Taxes

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much unpaid tax HM Revenue and Customs is owed. [9909]

Mr Gauke: Table 6 of HMRC's Trust Statement sets out the level of receivables owed to the Department, and is available on page 124 of:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0910.pdf

Receivables represent amounts due from taxpayers or traders in respect of established liabilities for which, at the end of the reporting period, payments had not been received.

Receivables fell from £27.7 billion at 31 March 2009 to £26.1 billion at 31 March 2010—a fall of 5.8%.

VAT

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of the planned increase in the rate of value added tax from 1 January 2011 on consumer prices index annual inflation in financial years *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [7390]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Chairman of the Office for Budget Responsibility, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Sir Alan Budd, dated 20 July 2010:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question:

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the effect of the planned increase in the rate of value added tax from 1 January 2011 on consumer prices index annual inflation in financial years (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13.

We have produced a Budget forecast, which incorporates the impact of policy measures announced at or before the Budget. The increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent with effect from 4 January 2011 is one of the key policy measures affecting the economic and fiscal forecasts.

Drawing on evidence of domestic and international changes in VAT rates, we judge that around two thirds of the VAT increase will be passed on relatively quickly to prices, with further adjustment in the following year.

Chart C3 in the OBR Chapter of the Budget document published on 22 June shows the Budget forecast and the pre-Budget forecast for CPI.

The impact on the annual rate of CPI inflation is to add 0.7 percentage points to the annual rate in 2011/12 and 0.1 percentage points to the annual rate in 2012/13.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* Newcastle Central constituency, *(b)* the north-east region and *(c)* England started (i) an apprenticeship, (ii) an advanced apprenticeship and (iii) a higher apprenticeship in each of the last five years. [10175]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of Apprenticeship starts by level for *(a)* Newcastle Central Constituency, *(b)* the north-east region and *(c)* England from 2005/06, the earliest year for which we have apprenticeship starts based on the new parliamentary constituency boundaries which came in to effect in May 2010.

Table 1: Apprenticeship Programme Starts by Level and Geography, 2005/06 to 2008/09

	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Newcastle upon Tyne constituency				
Apprenticeships (level 2)	240	250	250	270
Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3)	90	100	140	200
Total	330	350	390	470
north-east Region				
Apprenticeships (level 2)	9,400	8,500	10,900	10,500
Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3)	4,100	4,100	5,700	6,700
Total	13,500	12,600	16,700	17,200
England				
Apprenticeships (level 2)	122,800	127,400	151,800	158,500
Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3)	52,100	56,900	72,900	81,300
Higher Level Apprenticeships	[1]—	100	100	200
Total	175,000	184,400	224,800	239,900

[1] Indicates a base figure of less than fifty.

Notes:

1. Figures by parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10. All other figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. For Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency and the north-east region, any figures for Higher Level Apprenticeships are included within the Advanced Apprenticeships category, due to the low volumes.
3. Figures are based upon the home postcode of the learner and on constituency boundaries which came in to effect in ay 2010. Historic information on apprenticeship starts and achievements under the previous parliamentary constituency boundaries can be found at: http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_archive/
4. The figure for England contains a small number of apprenticeship starts where the postcode of the learner is outside England or where the postcode is not known.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Broadband: Finance

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the Digital Switchover Fund underspend has been allocated to delivering the universal service commitment of 2 Mbps. [10220]

Mr Vaizey: A total of £200 million is currently allocated to support both the universal service commitment and the three broadband pilots. That sum is however subject, as all Government expenditure is, to the outcome of the forthcoming comprehensive spending review.

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been allocated for the superfast broadband pilots; and from what budget that funding has been allocated. [10221]

Mr Vaizey: No specific budget has been allocated to an individual pilot to date. Broadband Delivery UK is considering the options for scale and location of the pilots to facilitate and maximise learning. The pilots will be funded from the digital switchover help scheme underspend.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria will be used to select the three areas to market test pilots for superfast broadband roll-out in rural areas; which areas have been short-listed; and who will select the pilot areas. [10222]

Mr Vaizey: The superfast broadband pilots aim to maximise understanding of the investment requirement for deploying superfast broadband in commercially challenging locations and how that investment requirement can be reduced and to understand the technical and commercial capability available for deploying superfast broadband in commercially challenging locations of the UK.

Broadband Delivery UK, the BIS team responsible for delivering the coalition Government's broadband objectives, is working with regional and national authorities to identify potential locations for the superfast broadband pilots and aims to make an announcement in September 2010. There is no shortlist as yet. Ministers will take the final decision.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7349]

Mr Davey: This Department and its predecessors spent the following amounts on office refurbishments in each year since 1997:

	£ million
1997-98	2
1998-99	2
1999-2000	2.15
2000-01	1.4
2001-02	4.32
2002-03	1.23
2003-04	2.3
2004-05	9.93

	£ million
2005-06	11.79
2006-07	1.55
2007-08	10.02
2008-09	1.02
2009-10	7.8

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7349 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. Companies House costs for refurbishments for each for which figures are available are as follows:

Financial year	*£*
2004-05	1,595,000
2005-06	557,000
2006-07	93,000
2007-08	620,000
2008-09	644,000
2009-10	595,000

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 12 July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has asked me to reply directly to you concerning your question asking how much this agency spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997.

Accounting records containing this data are only available from 2003/04, and we are unable to provide figures before that time. The expenditure requested for the 7 full financial years since 2003/04 is shown in the table below:

	£
2003-04	673,528
2004-05	521,184
2005-06	897,270
2006-07	522,382
2007-08	1,148,451
2008-09	3,903,800
2009-10	1,457,920
Total	8,937,032

Letter from John Alty, dated 8 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent the following amounts on refurbishment and new furniture,

	£000
2009-10	871
2008-09	220
2007-08	201
2006-07	240
2005-06	53
2004-05	51
2003-04	127
2002-03	32
2001-02	254
2000-01	199
1999-2000	257

These figures do not include general maintenance or dilapidation charges by landlords on termination of leases. Figures for earlier years are not available in the timescales.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7349), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on office refurbishment in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have not spent any money on office refurbishment.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on office refurbishment in each year since 1997.

Information on such expenditure prior to January 2001 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, spent the following on office refurbishment:

	£
2001	187.00
2002	1,020.00
2003	0
2004	0
2005	0
2006	2,582.89
2007	6,618.22
2008	11,571.86
2009	42,706.90

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7499]

Mr Davey: This Department spent £41,065 in 2008 covering the purchase and installation of televisions for an internal communications project. Information on costs relating to the ad hoc purchase of other televisions during this period and previous years cannot be identified as these will have been included in the overall project costs for which TV installation may have been a part.

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 9 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7499 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. In the last five years for which figures are available Companies House spent £2,928.52 on television sets; this expenditure took place in 2008.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7499), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on televisions in the Department and its agencies.

This information is not recorded separately and to determine this spend would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 14 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on televisions in each year since 1997.

The National Measurement Office has not bought any televisions since its establishment in April 2009. Its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, bought one television in about 2004 at a cost of no more than £250. It is not possible to provide more detailed information on the date and amount without incurring disproportionate cost.

The National Measurement Office (and its predecessor) also has responsibility for the direct enforcement of Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation legislation with producers of electronic and electrical equipment. These activities sometimes involve the purchase of televisions for the purpose of ascertaining the presence of hazardous materials. The testing is destructive below the component level. Our finance records make no distinction between the different types of electronic or electrical equipment purchased for test purposes. Since 2006, when the agency was first appointed as an enforcement agency, it is estimated that approximately 5 televisions have been purchased, tested and disposed of. It is not possible to provide more detailed information on the dates and the amounts without incurring disproportionate cost.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 9 July 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, how much (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has no information on this expenditure for the years 1997 to 2004.

The costs of televisions purchased by The Insolvency Service from 2005 through to 30 June 2010 are:

	£	*Number of TVs*
2005/06	5,550	7
2006/07	6,834	10
2007/08	12,107	10
2008/09	2,660	3
2009/10	567	1
1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010	604	1

These televisions were primarily purchased to be connected to our IT systems for use in The Service's regional and local training rooms. With one or two exceptions, they are not used for watching broadcast television.

Letter from John Alty, dated 20 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has two functional televisions in two separate locations. These cost £500 in 2007/08 and £2,375 in 2006/07. There is no earlier data available.

Departmental Equality

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staffing costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [9785]

Mr Davey: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 20 July, *Official* Report, column 294W.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7562]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) accesses legal advice from its own departmental lawyers as well as from external counsel and solicitors, Treasury solicitors and parliamentary counsel. Details of expenditure on internal and external legal advice for the Department and its predecessors since 2003/04 are set out as follows:

Million

Departmental expenditure	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
External Legal Services	15.1	17.5	17.3	14.6	12.4	15.3	7.3
Internal Legal Advisory Services	9.9	8.5	8.1	7.4	7	5.2	5.3

Information before 2003/04 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The information requested for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 8 July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is unable to provide the information requested for each year since 1997 because accounting records are only available from 2003/2004 onwards.

The Insolvency Service obtains legal advice from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and external solicitors on contract and other issues. The Service is also responsible for taking enforcement action and in doing so it obtains external legal advice and outsources some investigation work to legal firms.

The Service spent the following amounts on legal advice for the years 2003/04 onwards. All figures are in £000s.

			£000
	BIS	*Other*	*Enforcement*
2003/04	445	78	8,219
2004/05	449	31	7,309
2005/06	552	37	6,660
2006/07	951	335	[1]6,092
2007/08	1,278	108	6,120
2008/09	921	292	7,442
2009/10	901	82	7,644

[1] Companies Investigation Branch merged with The Insolvency Service in 2006/07 and the expenditure from that year onwards includes that for both The Insolvency Service and Companies Investigation Branch.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on legal advice in each year since 1997.

The National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, obtain legal advice services both from external organisations and from other parts of Government. Information on such expenditure prior to January 2001 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Agency spent the following on legal advice services from external organisations:

	£
2001 to 2007	Nil
2008	31,248.14
2009	42,298.76

The National Measurement Office paid for legal advice services from within Government through invoices presented by successively DTI, BERR, Treasury Solicitors and BIS. The Agency spent the following on such legal advice services:

	£
2001	82,515.80
2002	76,785.30
2003	80,462.43
2004	44,935.00
2005	112,480.82
2006	109,259.28
2007	54,518.53
2008	133,202.06
2009	103,614.78

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7562), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on legal advice in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Legal advice is supplied to us by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) legal team and their internal recharge figure for this service from 1 April to 30 June 2010 is £20,000. In addition, the YPLA legal team's external costs are £45,000 across both the YPLA and the Skills Funding Agency; a breakdown of this figure between the two agencies is not available.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7562 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. Companies House costs for costs legal advice for each year for which figures are available are as follows:

Financial year	£
2009	81,064
2008	15,784
2007	159
2006	2,170
2005	170,416

Letter from John Alty, dated 16 July 2010

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent the following sums on legal advice:

	£000
2009-10	824
2008-09	925
2007708	581
2006-07	614
2005-06	563
2004-05	615
2003-04	700
2002-03	562
2001-02	418
2000-01	244
1999-2000	313

This mainly covers advice on Intellectual Property matters from departmental solicitors.

Earlier years are not available in the timescale.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7475]

Mr Davey: Information about work to create logos in support of the range of the Department's work is not held centrally and could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

However, the following information relates to activity in recent years that can be specifically attributed to the design of corporate logos when a change of departmental name took place.

1. The proposed change of name from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to the Department for Productivity, Energy and Industry (DPEI)

2005/06: £4,000

2. The creation of the logo for the newly formed Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)

2007/08: £17,700

3. The creation of the logo for the newly formed Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

2009/10: £8,282

£9,755 was spent on logo design when UKTI was launched in 2003. There has been no subsequent expenditure on logo design. Due to change in accounting systems, details of costs prior to 2003 are not available on a comparable basis and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Information on the Department's non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7475 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. However, Companies House spent £10,000 on logo design in 2001.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 13 July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much his (a) Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service has had the same logo design since its inception in 1990 and has therefore not spent anything on logo design since 1997.

Letter from Geoff Russell dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7475), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on logo design in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have not spent any money on logo design but we have spent £3,600 on associated costs for logo guidelines and templates.

Letter from John Alty, dated 8 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent £9,650 (plus VAT) on logo design in 2008/09.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 16 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how much was spent on logo design in each year since 1997.

The Agency's predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, spent the following on design matters relating to its logo:

	£
2001	250.00
2002	Nil
2003	Nil
2004	395.00
2005	300.00
2006	Nil
2007	Nil
2008	95.00
2009	Nil

As a result of the creation of the National Measurement Office, in April 2009 the Agency spent £310.00 on the design of its new logo, and £2,300 on the design aspects of the new collective brand for the National Measurement System.

Information on such expenditure prior to 2001 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7996]

Mr Davey: Between 12 May and 12 July this Department has spent £98,065.59 with the Government Car and Despatch Agency. This amount relates to the provision of cars for both Ministers and officials.

The provision of cars for Minsters is based on arrangements inherited from the previous Administration, which are now being terminated.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to reduce the cost of running his Department since his appointment. [9274]

Mr Davey: BIS will make running costs savings of £38 million or 11% in 2010-11.

This will be achieved through a variety of measures. This includes reductions in spend on: ICT and accommodation; marketing and advertising activities; use of consultants; and travel expenses.

BIS will also be taking steps to reduce its paybill through a voluntary retirement and redundancy scheme, severe restrictions on any recruitment into BIS, and the wider cross-Whitehall pay freeze.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7367]

Mr Davey: For the financial years listed in the table, this Department and its predecessors spent the following on security guarding of buildings on its core estate:

	£ million
2003/04	2.6
2004/05	3.2
2005/06	2.7
2006/07	2.8
2007/08	3
2008/09	3.2
2009/10	3.3

Information prior to 2003/04 is not available and could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7367 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. Companies House costs for security for each year for which figures are available are as follows:

Financial Year	£
2009	489,550
2008	542,330
2007	483,418
2006	482,443
2005	453,678

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7367), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on security in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have spent £82,000 on security.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on security in each year since 1997.

The National Measurement Office, like its predecessor, the National Weights and Laboratory, is based on a site in Teddington on which are located several organisations. A facility management organisation provides security services for the benefit of the whole site. The cost of this service is absorbed in a monthly invoice and a separate figure for the security element could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Letter from John Alty, dated 9 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent the following amounts on security, mainly guards and CCTV in the years below:

	£000
2009/10	369
2008/09	258
2007/08	233
2006/07	252
2005/06	271
2004/05	236
2003/04	233
2002/03	227
2001/02	230
2000/01	213
1999/00	199

These figures for earlier years are not available in the timescales.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 12 July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has asked me to reply to your question how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997.

The amounts spent on security by The Insolvency Service for each of the years for which financial information is available, are as follows:

Year	Amount (£000)
2004/05	342
2005/06	348
2006/07	385
2007/08	416
2008/09	311
2009/10	363

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7456]

Mr Davey: The Department has spent the following sums on stationery since the financial year 2003-04, which is the earliest year for which figures are available:

	£
2003-04	983,150
2004-05	857,020
2005-06	790,230
2006-07	521,247
2007-08	345,557
2008-09	411,643
2009-10	491,697

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7456 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. Companies House costs for stationery for each year for which figures are available are as follows:

Financial year	£
2009	609,026
2008	582,236
2007	683,004
2006	781,181
2005	927,945

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 July 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, how much (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills introduced a new accounting system in 2003/04 and expenditure specifically on office supplies is only identifiable from that year onwards.

The Service incurred the following expenditure on office supplies, which includes general office supplies and consumables:

	Amount £000
2003-04	549
2004-05	644
2005-06	811
2006-07	[1]1,199
2007-08	1,023
2008-09	1,350
2009-10	1,081

[1] Companies Investigation Branch was merged with The Insolvency Service from 2006-07. Figures from 2006-07 onwards therefore include both the Insolvency Service and Companies Investigation Branch.

Letter from John Alty, dated 8 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent the following amounts on stationery and office supplies in the years below:

	£000
2009-10	254
2008-09	305
2007-08	261
2006-07	189
2005-06	231
2004-05	293
2003-04	317
2002-03	408
2001-02	490
2000-01	515
1999-2000	568

Earlier information is not available in the timescales.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7456), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on stationery in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have spent £27,000 on stationery.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on stationery in each year since 1997.

Information on such expenditure prior to January 2001 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, spent the following on stationery:

	£
2001	9,250.40
2002	11,456.90
2003	9,967.29
2004	12,095.86
2005	7,835.88
2006	8,193.44
2007	8,979.45
2008	11,875.04
2009	16,360.82

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997. [7311]

Mr Davey: The BIS accounting system does not disaggregate figures between away days and the costs other types of planning or training activities. Therefore, the amount spent on employee away days could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7311 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. Companies House has spent the following on employee awaydays in each year for which figures are available:

Financial year	£
2009	2,280
2008	3,135
2007	4,545
2006	4,295
2005	3,679

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7311), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on employee awaydays in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have spent £10,457 on business focussed away days for our employees.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how much was spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997.

Information on such expenditure prior to January 2008 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, spent the following on employee awaydays:

	£
2008	8,557.29
2009	7,250.99

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 9 July 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, how much (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is unable to provide this information for each of the years since 1997.

The costs of team building events are available for the following years:

	£000
2007-08	3
2008-09	19
2009-10	30

Letter from John Alty, dated 21 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent the following amounts on away days:

	£000
2009/10	24
2008/09	122
2007/08	40
2006/07	10
2005/06	1

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on travel for its employees in each year since 1997. [7418]

Mr Davey: For the Department, information for the financial years 2002/03 and earlier can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However, the information for financial years 2003/04 onwards is as follows:

	£
2003/04	2,103,013
2004/05	4,883,836
2005/06	5,874,267
2006/07	4,711,133
2007/08	4,260,734
2008/09	5,548,111
2009/10	7,026,098
April 2010 to June 2010	1,152,856

The information provided relates to BIS air, rail and car expenditure.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Information on the Department's NDPBs is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7418 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. In each year for which figures are available Companies House spent the following on travel for its employees:

Financial year	£
2009	280,148
2008	290,893

Prior to 2008, the figures included costs for all aspects of each trip, including accommodation for example. Therefore, I do not have a separate figure for travel alone for the years before 2008.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 July 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much his (a) Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on travel for its employees in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills spent the following amounts on travel for its employees in each year since 1997, as reported in The Insolvency Service Report and Accounts for the relevant financial year:

	Amount (£000)
1997/98	393
1998/99	326
1999/2000	655
2000/01	555
2001/02	730
2002/03	786
2003/04	1,500
2004/05	1,372
2005/06	[1]1,787
2006/07	2,388
2007/08	3,426
2008/09	3,821
2009/10	[2]3,002

[1] The figures for 2005/06 were restated to include the merged costs of Companies Investigation Branch. Figures from 2005/06 onwards include both The Insolvency Service and Companies Investigation Branch.

[2] Draft unaudited.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on travel by employees in each year since 1997.

Information on such expenditure prior to January 2001 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Since 2001, the National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, spent the following on travel for its employees:

	£
2001	74,090.05
2002	65,417.50
2003	60,635.54
2004	60,759.66
2005	51,981.80
2006	70,179.97
2007	69,394.24
2008	101,508.46
2009	104,514.41

The costs include both the cost of travel itself and the cost of subsistence (e.g. hotels and meals) associated with that travel.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7418), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on employee travel in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have spent £612,000 on employee travel.

Letter from John Alty, dated 8 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent the following amounts on travel, including fares, hotels and other expenses in the years below:

	£000
2009/10	753
2008/09	1,098
2007/08	766
2006/07	702
2005/06	669
2004/05	565
2003/04	586
2002/03	624
2001/02	650
2000/01	663
1999/2000	548

These figures do not include costs which are reimbursed by other organisations and earlier years are not available in the timescales.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the Agency Worker Regulations 2010; and whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects of those regulations on levels of *(a)* salary, *(b)* bonuses and *(c)* holiday pay. [10078]

Mr Davey: An impact assessment was published under the previous Government at the time of laying the Agency Workers Regulations in January 2010.

The estimated total cost to public sector hirers of increased wages under the 12-week qualifying period was assessed as between £157 and £259 million per year.

The gross cost of wages across the economy as a whole under the 12-week qualifying period was estimated to be between £1,196 and £1,327 million per year. This reflects any overtime/night work premiums, bonuses and any other payments included in salaries. The gross cost of equal treatment with regards to paid holiday was estimated to amount to £82 million per year.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects of the Agency Worker Regulations 2010 on those undertaking assignments of less than 12 weeks. [10079]

Mr Davey: The Agency Workers Regulations were laid on the basis of the CBI-TUC agreement of May 2008, providing agency workers with a right to equal treatment after a 12-week qualifying period in a given job. However, other aspects of the directive are not subject to the qualifying period and give entitlements from day one of an assignment, including access to amenities or collective facilities such as canteens and access to information about job vacancies in the hirer. In addition, all agency workers already benefit from many of the same protections as permanent workers in the UK, including entitlement to be paid at least the national minimum wage, working time rights such as paid annual leave and a limit on the working week (unless they have signed an opt-out) and protection under anti-discrimination law and health and safety rules.

Further Education: Finance

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many capital building projects in further education colleges have been funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in each of the last five years; and how much was allocated to each project. [10455]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) allocates capital funding to those Further Education (FE) colleges that it funds directly on a formula basis. The amount awarded is based on the number of students on higher education courses at each institution. It does not fund specific projects; rather it is for each college subject to audit to decide how to deploy the resources they are given. This is the same basis as for higher education institutions. The tables give the amount of resource awarded to each directly funded college in the last five years. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

General Motors: Government Assistance

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Government has *(a)* given and *(b)* loaned to General Motors in the last three years; what the purpose was of each such loan or grant; what the terms of repayment are of each loan; and whether any further (i) loans or (ii) grants are proposed. [9479]

Mr Prisk: A Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) project was agreed in 2005 for the installation of two press lines at the Vauxhall Motors Ellesmere Port site to manufacture car body panels. Of the total grant of £1.9 million, which has been paid in full, £0.4 million was paid in the last three years.

A SFIE project for the installation of production facilities also at Ellesmere Port to manufacture the new Vauxhall Astra of £6.845 million was offered in 2006. No payments have been made.

In addition, the North West Development Agency approved funding of £8.9 million for training for the Ellesmere Port site. Of the total grant awarded to the company of £8.7 million for this project (which started in April 2008), £2.78 million has been paid in the last three years. The project is a training programme to develop the work force capability thereby improving the plant's competitiveness and its long-term future.

The East of England Development Agency provided a £416,000 grant to IBC Vehicles (GM's van subsidiary) in Luton to enable a sequence of sustainable energy projects in March 2010. 90% of the funding has been provided, with the remainder being withheld until project completion.

While we had been willing to offer £270 million loan guarantee support to General Motors Europe (as originally announced on 12 March 2010), we are pleased that GM has indicated it is in a position to fund the restructuring of GM Europe, including Vauxhall, from its internal resources.

Graduates: Employment Schemes

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future funding of the Graduate Talent Pool. [9327]

Mr Willetts: The Government are continuing to support the Graduate Talent Pool, and it is open to 2010 graduates as well as 2008 and 2009 graduates.

Graduates: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of people who graduated in 2009 from *(a)* universities and *(b)* colleges in Leeds have not entered full-time employment or continued with their education. [9552]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Of the 2008/09 academic year cohort of graduates, 28.8% of first degree graduates from universities in Leeds (Leeds Trinity University College, Leeds Metropolitan University, and the University of Leeds) were not in full-time employment or further study six months after graduating.

24.5% of first degree graduates from Leeds College of Music (this is classed as an institution of higher education) were not in full-time employment or further study six months after graduating.

Information on the destinations of leavers from further education colleges will not be published until later in the year.

A more detailed breakdown of these graduates' destinations is in the following table:

Destinations of first degree graduates from higher education institutions in Leeds six months after graduating 2008/09

Percentage

	Leeds Trinity University College	*Leeds Metropolitan University*	*University of Leeds*	*Universities in Leeds*	*Leeds College of Music*	*All UK HEIs*
Full-time employment or further study	68.9	68.6	73.6	71.2	75.5	72.2
Part-time paid work only	17.9	11.9	8.6	10.5	13.3	11.5
Voluntary/unpaid work only	1.4	0.9	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.0
Not available for employment	5.2	5.2	6.3	5.8	3.1	3.9
Assumed to be unemployed	6.4	11.7	8.4	9.7	6.1	9.2
Other	0.2	1.7	0.7	1.1	0.0	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:

1. These figures do not include graduates who either did not respond to the survey or specifically refused to answer.
2. 'Full-time employment or further study' includes those in full-time employment only, study only or a combination of work and study.
3. 'Not available for employment' includes those permanently unable to work or retired, taking time out to travel, or temporarily sick or looking after family and not in study.
4. 'Assumed to be unemployed' includes to anyone due to start a job within the next month and not in full-time study, or anyone who is unemployed and looking for employment but not in full-time study.
5. 'Other' includes to graduates who are not employed but not looking for employment, further study or training, or something else but not in further study.

Source:

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DLHE), collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Local Better Regulation Office

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much funding the Local Better Regulation Office has received from his Department in each year since 2007; [9734]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff have been employed by the Local Better Regulation Office in each year since 2007; [9735]

(3) what the salary of the *(a)* Chief Executive, *(b)* Director of Policy and Engagement, *(c)* Director of Resources, *(d)* Director of Delivery and *(e)* Director of Corporate Strategy at the Local Better Regulation Office was in each year since 2007. [9736]

Mr Prisk: The Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) spent £1.8 million in the period September 2007 to 31 March 2008; £4.4 million in 2008/09; £4.4 million in 2009/10 and has an allocation of £3.7 million for the current financial year.

In 2007/08 LBRO had a total of 22.5 full-time equivalent employees. In 2008/09, it had 27.5 and in 2009/10 it had 26 full-time equivalent employees.

The salary levels for all these roles over the last three years can be found in LBRO's annual reports which are available from the Libraries of the House.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment has been made by his Department of the value for money offered by the Local Better Regulation Office; and if he will make a statement; [9738]

(2) what assessment has been made by his Department of the effectiveness of the Local Better Regulation Office in reducing the regulatory burden on business; and if he will make a statement. [9739]

Mr Prisk: Government Departments are currently reviewing partner organisations to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of these bodies and the functions that they currently perform, including LBRO.

News Corporation: BSkyB

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to apply a public interest test in determining whether to request a report from Ofcom on the matter of Newscorp's bid for BSkyB; and what other factors he plans to take into account in making his decision. [9964]

Mr Davey: We do not as yet have enough information about this potential transaction to enable the Secretary of State to decide whether intervention is appropriate. The guidance on the circumstances in which the Secretary of State may use his discretion to intervene in media mergers is available on the BIS website at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file14331.pdf

Nuclear Fusion: Research

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 315W, on nuclear fusion: research, what the annual contribution to Euratom was in the period 2000 to 2009 inclusive; and what Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council spending on renewable energy research was in each year from 2000 to 2009. [10062]

Mr Willetts: The UK does not provide direct funding to Euratom, but contributes indirectly to Euratom through its payments to the overall EU budget.

The spending by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council on renewable energy research between 1999-2000 and 2009-10 is shown in the following table.

EPSRC spend on renewable energy research

Financial year	*£*
1999-2000	5,899,576
2000-01	6,645,384
2001-02	8,790,881
2002-03	9,135,392
2003-04	10,285,284
2004-05	10,534,395
2005-06	12,200,573
2006-07	15,985,770
2007-08	22,859,006
2008-09	32,304,916
2009-10	46,334,266

Post Offices: Bank Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial services offered by the Post Office are provided by the Bank of Ireland. [9949]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 132W, on Sheffield Forgemasters: finance, for what reasons a commercial solution to the Forgemasters investment was found to be inappropriate prior to 7 May 2010. [10194]

Mr Prisk: It is an established convention that Minsters of one Administration cannot see the documents of a previous Administration. However, as I have previously made clear, the decision not to pursue the loan was taken on the grounds of affordability. It was no reflection on the project which we recognise as being worthwhile.

Summertime

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the cost and benefits of the application of British Summer Time. [10314]

Mr Davey: The Government have made no recent assessment of the current summer time arrangements but we continue to listen to representations we receive and consider any evidence presented to us.

Unemployment: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between 18 and 24 and resident in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley were not in employment, education or training in each quarter since May 2005; and if he will make a statement. [10440]

Mr Hayes: The following table provides estimates of the number and proportion of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education employment or training (NEET) in the London borough of Bexley in each year from 2005-09. This information is from the Annual Population Survey, which covers the period January to December of each year, with 2009 being the most recent estimate available. The Annual Population Survey is the only available source of data with a sample large enough to provide local authority estimates of the number of young people up to the age of 24 who are NEET. However, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies, such as parliamentary constituencies, or to provide local authority estimates for age ranges narrower than 16 to 24.

People aged 16-24 years old not in employment education or training (NEET) in London borough of Bexley

	NEET		
	Number	*Percentage*	*95% confidence interval (PP)*
2005	2,000	7	+/-5
2006	4,000	17	+/-8
2007	3,000	12	+/-7
2008	3,000	14	+/-8
2009	3,000	10	+/-6

Base:
16 to 24-year-olds, London borough of Bexley
Source:
Annual Population Survey

It is important to note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals, which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a Confidence Interval of +/-5 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 5pp above the estimate and 5pp below the estimate.

Quarterly estimates of the number of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) derived from the Labour Force Survey are published by the Department for Education. The latest publication can be found online at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000924/index.shtml

This includes supplementary tables giving breakdowns of 18 to 24-year-olds NEET for each region.

[1] Age used is respondents' academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

Union Modernisation Fund

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will ensure that no successor scheme to the Union Modernisation Fund is established; [10073]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of the Union Modernisation Supervisory Board in each year since its inception; how much members of that board claimed in expenses in each such year; and if he will make a statement; [10074]

(3) on what dates the Union Modernisation Supervisory Board has met; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each meeting; [10075]

(4) what the total cost to the public purse was of the Union Modernisation Fund since its establishment. [10076]

Mr Davey: I shall answer these questions in order.

I confirm that we have no plans for a successor scheme to the Union Modernisation Fund.

The cost to the public purse of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board consisted of expenses claimed by all members, totalling:

	£
2005-06	8,828
2006-07	4,272
2007-08	9,642
2008-09	4,078
2009-10	7,098

In addition to this, the Department for Innovation, Business and Skills (BIS) incurred minor staffing costs to support meetings of the Board.

The Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board met on the following dates:

23-24 November 2005

2-3 July 2007

21 July 2009.

The agendas were to assess the applications for UMF Rounds One, Two and Three respectively. No minutes were taken at these meetings.

The total cost to date of the Union Modernisation Fund is £5,737,624. We intend shortly to publish on BIS's website the amounts awarded to each trade union.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on his plans to reform the Access to Work programme; and what his timetable is for such reform. [10230]

Maria Miller: Access to Work provides financial help towards the extra costs faced by people with a disability in work, where this goes beyond what would be reasonable for an employer to meet. Access to Work supported 32,120 disabled people during 2008-09. Official Statistics for 2009-10 will be published on 27 July.

Reform of Access to Work is part of the coalition agreement to enable disabled people to apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment needed. We are developing plans for delivering this commitment and further details will be announced in due course.

Employment Schemes

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Young Person's Guarantee in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency in placing young people into employment and work placements; [8211]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the effect on levels of employment in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(b)* Dudley North constituency of abolishing the Future Jobs Fund. [8415]

Chris Grayling: We have agreed to fund over 100,000 jobs. The Department is committed to implementing programmes that deliver value for money and deliver sustainable outcomes. At up to £6,500 per person the Future Jobs Fund is five times more expensive than some other elements of the Young Person's Guarantee.

The fund does not ensure sustainable employment for young people: it creates short-term jobs, and the grants do not include any incentives to move people into permanent posts.

Reducing the scope of the programme will save £290 million and this will help the Government tackle the unprecedented £156 billion deficit.

The Government are committed to supporting young people. The 50,000 new apprenticeships announced in May and the forthcoming work programme will help move young people into sustainable employment.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many young people in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency have found (i) employment and (ii) a work placement as a result of the Young Person's Guarantee; [8210]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(b)* Dudley North constituency who have found work through the Future Jobs Fund; [8416]

(3) how many individuals resident in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency have received work placements under the Future Jobs Fund since the programme's inception. [8420]

Chris Grayling: The information requested on the Dudley North constituency and Dudley borough local authority area is not available. In the west midlands area the latest official statistics, covering the period from October 2009 to January 2010, show that 940 people were recorded as starting a temporary job funded by the Future Jobs Fund at a cost of up to £6,500 per placement. The young person's guarantee will be replaced next summer by a new work programme. This will offer better targeted and integrated employment support to people who find themselves out of work, including young people. Unlike the young person's guarantee, where young people are eligible if they are claiming jobseeker's allowance, the new work programme will provide help to the young people regardless of what benefit they are claiming and will support young people into sustainable employment.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who would have received the two-year jobseeker's guarantee in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands, *(c)* Dudley borough and *(d)* Dudley North constituency this year had the scheme not been cancelled. [8215]

Chris Grayling: The two-year jobseeker's guarantee was due to start from April 2011 and therefore was not due to help anyone this year.

The Government aim to have the new work programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. The work programme will be an integrated package of support providing flexible help for people who find themselves out of work based on individual need rather than benefit claimed.

In order to ensure that as many people benefit from the work programme as quickly as possible the Government will be phasing out many of the existing programmes and folding them into the work programme.

Employment: Young People

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department plans to spend on programmes for the young unemployed in 2010-11. [9568]

Chris Grayling: The Department has budgeted to spend approximately £700 million in 2010-11 on support for young people. This will be delivered through mainstream employment programmes and other programmes targeted specifically at young people.

Future Jobs Fund: Greater London

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs created in London have been attributable to the Future Jobs Fund since its inception. [8273]

Chris Grayling: In London, the latest official statistics covering the period from October 2009 to January 2010, show that 840 people were recorded as starting a temporary job funded by the future jobs fund at a cost of up to £6,500 per placement. The young person's guarantee will be replaced next summer by a new work programme. This will offer better targeted and integrated employment support to people who find themselves out of work, including young people. Unlike the young person's guarantee, where young people are eligible if they are claiming jobseeker's allowance, the new work programme will provide help to the young people regardless of what benefit they are claiming and will support young people into sustainable employment.

Housing Benefit

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area receive housing benefit. [7274]

Steve Webb: The available information has been placed in the Library.

The information is not available at the constituency level.

The available information on housing benefit recipients is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/
hbctb_release_jun10.xls

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the proposed 12-month limit on full housing benefit for claimants of jobseeker's allowance is to operate only over the period of the claim for that allowance. [9366]

Steve Webb: The proposed change will affect people receiving jobseeker's allowance and housing benefit and will apply where those benefits have been in payment for a period of one year. The precise detail of the change will be developed in the coming months prior to draft legislation being introduced.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many prosecutions there were of an employer for breach of health and safety legislation in each year since 1997; [8305]

(2) how many convictions there were of employers for breach of health and safety legislation in each year since 1997. [8306]

Chris Grayling: HSE holds the information required for the period 1999-2000 to 2008-09 and the figures are shown in the following table.

The table shows prosecutions and convictions heard in the relevant year and where a result has been secured, i.e. the prosecution has been completed.

It is estimated that three quarters of these relate specifically to employers.

	Enforcing authority					
	HSE		*LA*		*ORR*	
	Offences prosecuted	*Convictions*	*Offences prosecuted*	*Convictions*	*Offences prosecuted*	*Convictions*
1999-2000	2115	1616	412	322	—	—
2000-01	1973	1490	401	352	—	—
2001-02	1986	1522	350	307	—	—
2002-03	1659	1273	330	285	—	—
2003-04	1720	1317	410	354	—	—
2004-05	1320	1025	332	281	—	—
2005-06	1056	840	257	247	—	—
2006-07	1041	846	340	314	10	6
2007-08	1060	853	354	334	2	2
2008-09p	1090	846	329	309	14	14

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the terms of reference are for Lord Young's review of the operation of health and safety legislation; [8311]

(2) from what individuals and organisations Lord Young will invite contributions to his review of the operation of health and safety legislation. [8312]

Chris Grayling: The terms of reference for Lord Young's health and safety review are

> "to investigate and report back to the Prime Minister on the rise of the compensation culture over the last decade coupled with the current low standing that health and safety legislation now enjoys and to suggest solutions. Following the agreement of the report, to work with appropriate departments across government to bring the proposals into effect."

Lord Young has invited contributions from a large number of key stakeholders, professionals and individuals. A full list of those organisations who contributed their views will be published as part of the final report.

Industrial Injuries

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people with an occupational illness in each year since 1997. [8183]

Chris Grayling: The overall estimated prevalence of self-reported work-related illness (long standing ill health, as well as new cases), for people working in the last 12 months, in 2001-02 and 2003-04 to 2008-09 is given in the following table. These data are not available prior to 2001-02 or for 2002-03.

These estimates are based on evidence from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS provides the most broadly based measure, including estimates of the large number of individuals with musculoskeletal disorders and stress. No single source of information provides a basis for estimating the total number of people with an occupational illness.

	Estimated prevalence of self-reported workplace illness
2001-02	1,391,000
2002-03	—
2003-04	1,340,000
2004-05	1,228,000
2005-06	1,147,000
2006-07	1,384,000
2007-08	1,261,000
2008-09	1,182,000

Note:
Data not available for 2002-03
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Invalidity Benefits: Durham

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in City of Durham constituency. [8466]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Employment and support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009: parliamentary constituency City of Durham

	Number
ESA	650
IB/SDA	3,570
DLA	4,870

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Invalidity Benefits: Newport Gwent

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Newport East constituency. [8476]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Employment and support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

	Newport East parliamentary constituency
ESA	720
IB/SDA	3,560
DLA	5,220

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Jobcentre Plus: Edinburgh

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff are employed in Edinburgh on temporary contracts. [9467]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff in Edinburgh are employed on temporary contracts. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Office for National Statistics defines temporary staff as those on a fixed-term appointment of less than 12 months. As at the end of March 2010, we had 4 full-time equivalents in Edinburgh falling into that category. However, Jobcentre Plus also uses fixed-term appointments for longer periods of employment, and at March 2010 we had a further 62 full time equivalents in Edinburgh on fixed-term appointments of more than 12 months duration.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of training *(a)* employment advisers and *(b)* customer service managers for Jobcentre Plus was in each of the last five years. [8977]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the cost of training *(a)* employment advisers and *(b)* customer service managers for Jobcentre Plus was in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We do not have job role specific data covering the last five years. This is because Departmental IT systems only started to collate this level of data three years ago.

Therefore, I am only able to provide the following breakdown for each of the last three years against the job roles requested:

The cost of training Personal Advisers and Customer Service Managers for Jobcentre Plus in each of the last three years

Year/Job role	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Personal Adviser	£2,444,430	£3,843,810	£12,570,970
Customer Service Manager	£151,980	£248,850	£308,655

Notes:

1 The terminology within Jobcentre Plus for Employment Adviser is Personal Adviser.

2 The cost of learning is based on the total number of days learning for each of the job roles and includes both generic and technical learning.

The increase in the cost of training provided for Personal Advisers in 2009/10 is due to the significant recruitment of new Personal Advisers by Jobcentre Plus during this period to support increased workloads arising from the economic downturn.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Standards

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what service level agreement is in place in respect of the processing of payment of claims for reimbursement of interview-related travel costs by recipients of jobseeker's allowance; and what percentage of claims have been processed within the target time in each of the last three years. [8387]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what service level agreement is in place in respect of the processing of payment of claims for reimbursement of interview-related travel costs by recipients of Jobseeker's Allowance; and what percentage of claims have been processed within the target time in each of the last three years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

Helping eligible customers with job interview expenses is an important part of the services we offer to help people back into work as quickly as possible. Where a customer is eligible for job interview-related expenses (through the Travel to Interview Scheme), we aim to reimburse payment within four weeks of the job interview, but this does depend, in part, on customers providing the required supporting information—i.e. original receipts/tickets for the expenses incurred.

In terms of our performance, we do not routinely gather information on the time taken to process payments as this would be disproportionately expensive. However, I am keen to make sure people understand how quickly we aim to make payment and how to raise issues or concerns; and have asked that post interview arrangements be incorporated into Travel to Interview scheme information given to customers.

In terms of personal adviser interviews people are asked to attend at a Jobcentre Plus office, these are nearly always timed to coincide with their jobsearch review appointments to ensure that no additional travel costs are incurred. However, where this is not possible or where a customer is asked to attend an office other than their normal office of attendance, and they incur additional travel expenses we will reimburse these costs at the start of the interview to allay any worry or uncertainty on the customer's part.

Parental Leave

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on reform of legislation on maternity and paternity leave. [6719]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State and other BIS Ministers are having a wide range of meetings with business and employee representatives to discuss a range of issues, including maternity and paternity leave.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Warrington North constituency receive *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* disability living allowance and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [9070]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows.

Employment and support allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance claimants in Warrington North constituency: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Warrington North	820	4,010	6,040

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what terms specialists undertaking medical examinations for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance (i) assessments and (ii) appeals are paid. [8436]

Chris Grayling: Healthcare professionals who undertake medical assessments on behalf of the DWP are paid by Atos Healthcare. DWP pays Atos Healthcare for the services received under the terms of the Medical Services Contract.

State Retirement Pensions: Durham

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in City of Durham constituency receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [8470]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table.

Parliamentary constituency: City of Durham

	Number
State pension recipients	17,380
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	5,160
Pension credit household recipients	4,170

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Unemployment Benefits

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in jobseeker's allowance and predecessor benefits in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* the west midlands, *(d)* Dudley borough and *(e)* Dudley North constituency in each year since 1980. [8275]

Chris Grayling: The available information is in the tables. Information is not available below Great Britain prior to 1997-98.

Jobseeker's allowance annual expenditure: Nominal terms

£ million

	England and Wales	*England*	*West midlands*	*Dudley*	*Dudley North*
1997-98	3,509.6	3,311.2	370.6	18.4	6.4
1998-99	3,196.3	3,011.5	348.5	19.7	6.9
1999-2000	2,916.9	2,749.5	340.0	20.8	7.4
2000-01	2,574.9	2,421.0	316.7	20.1	7.4
2001-02	2,321.6	2,186.3	285.9	18.3	6.5
2002-03	2,341.4	2,210.4	282.4	17.6	6.5
2003-04	2,283.3	2,160.7	284.4	16.9	6.3
2004-05	1,962.2	1,857.1	244.6	14.6	5.5
2005-06	2,082.0	1,970.7	274.9	17.0	6.2
2006-07	2,211.5	2,097.7	296.9	18.5	6.8
2007-08	2,035.9	1,926.4	278.4	16.0	5.6
2008-09	2,603.8	2,455.2	345.6	19.9	6.6
2009-10	4,288.7	4,048.9	559.9	33.7	11.2

Jobseeker's allowance annual expenditure: Real terms 2010-11 prices

£ million

	England and Wales	*England*	*West midlands*	*Dudley*	*Dudley North*
1997-98	4,788.8	4,518.1	505.7	25.2	8.7
1998-99	4,271.3	4,024.5	465.7	26.3	9.2
1999-2000	3,822.7	3,603.3	445.5	27.2	9.7
2000-01	3,330.7	3,131.6	409.6	26.0	9.5
2001-02	2,937.5	2,766.2	361.8	23.1	8.2
2002-03	2,869.9	2,709.3	346.2	21.6	8.0
2003-04	2,722.0	2,575.8	339.0	20.1	7.5
2004-05	2,276.0	2,154.0	283.7	17.0	6.4
2005-06	2,370.6	2,243.9	313.1	19.4	7.0
2006-07	2,445.8	2,319.9	328.4	20.4	7.5
2007-08	2,188.5	2,070.7	299.3	17.2	6.0
2008-09	2,730.2	2,574.4	362.4	20.9	6.9
2009-10	4,413.1	4,166.3	576.1	34.7	11.5

Notes:
1. Figures for 2009-10 are based on three quarters of data (May 2009 to November 2009; February 2010 data are not yet available)
2. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000

Source:
DWP accounting and statistical data

The available information for Great Britain prior to 199798 can be found in the Library and on the internet at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Unemployment Benefits: Great Yarmouth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Great Yarmouth constituency have been in receipt of out-of-work benefits for *(a)* over six months, *(b)* over 12 months and *(c)* over five years. [9176]

Chris Grayling: The most recent available information is in the table.

Claimants of out-of-work benefits in the Great Yarmouth constituency, by benefit and duration, as at November 2009

	JSA	*Incapacity benefits*	*IS/PC*
Over six months	1,150	4,610	1,590
Over 12 months	500	4,360	1,300
Over five years	10	2,910	380

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten
2. The data have been analysed by statistical groups which are hierarchical. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. JSA—claimants of jobseekers allowance; Incapacity benefits—claimants of incapacity benefit(IB)/severe disablement allowance (SDA)/employment and support allowance(ESA); IS/PC—claimants of income support and males age 60-64 claiming pension credit who are not also claiming IB/SDA.
3. Great Yarmouth parliamentary constituency is analysed using the 2010 boundaries.
4. The duration categories overlap: so for example the number of people on out-of-work benefits for more than six months includes people who have been out of work for more than 12 months and more than five years.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 18 to 24 years resident in Peterborough constituency were not in employment, education or training in each quarter since May 2005; and if he will make a statement. [10136]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

The following table provides estimates of the number and proportion of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education employment or training (NEET) in the Peterborough local authority in each year from 2005 to 2009. This information is from the Annual Population Survey, which covers the period January to December of each year, with 2009 being the most recent estimate available. The Annual Population Survey is the only available source of data with a sample large enough to provide local authority estimates of the number of young people up to the age of 24 who are NEET. However, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies, such as parliamentary constituencies, or to provide local authority estimates for age ranges narrower than 16 to 24.

People aged 16 to 24-years-old not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Peterborough local authority

	Number NEET	*Percentage NEET*	*Confidence Interval (PP)*
2005	3,000	16	+/-5
2006	4,000	20	+/-6
2007	5,000	22	+/-6
2008	4,000	19	+/-6
2009	3,000	15	+/-5

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[1] Age used is respondents' academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

Note:

It is important to note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals, which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a Confidence Interval of +/-5 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 5pp above the estimate and 5pp below the estimate.

Base: 16 to 24-year-olds, Peterborough local authority

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Quarterly estimates of the number of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) derived from the Labour Force Survey are published by the Department for Education. The latest publication can be found online at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000924/index.shtml

This includes supplementary tables giving breakdowns of 18 to 24-year-olds NEET for each region.

Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on Wales of his Department's planned spending reductions. [8987]

Chris Grayling: The Government set out in their document 'Spending Review Framework' that they will

"look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions."

(2.4, page 7)

Further information will be available at the spending review.

Winter Fuel Payments: Disability

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the cost of extending eligibility for winter fuel payments to those severely disabled people in receipt of higher rate of mobility and core elements of disability living allowance. [8261]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payments are made to most people who have reached women's state pension age, including those who are severely disabled. Older people are targeted because they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of cold weather during the winter months.

Disability living allowance is specifically designed to help meet the extra costs of disability, including heating.

Based on the latest available caseload figures, the estimated annual cost increase in benefit expenditure were winter fuel payments to be extended to people receiving the higher rate mobility component or higher rate care component of disability living allowance would be approximately £250 million for winter 2010-11 (in 2010-11 prices), based on a £250 payment.

This is an upper estimate for the cost of extending winter fuel payments to this group as it includes those customers who may be living in a household that already receives a winter fuel payment. It is not possible to identify disability living allowance customers who would not be entitled to a winter fuel payment because they are living in households that already receive a winter fuel payment.

Additional help is available to severely disabled people through the disability premiums that are included in income-related benefits, such as income support, council tax benefit, housing benefit and pension credit. A combination of these premiums and the support received through disability living allowance means that the most vulnerable people can receive up to an approximate £8,000 per year in recognition of their extra costs.

Work Capability Assessment

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to obtain information on what happens to applicants for employment and support allowance who are deemed ineligible as a result of the work capability assessment. [9304]

Chris Grayling: Of all completed work capability assessments up to the end of February 2010 9% were placed into the support group, 23% were placed in the work related activity group and 68% were found fit for work. We are currently considering how we might look at the experiences and outcomes of this latter group in more detail—some of whom we know flow on to other benefits such as jobseeker's allowance and carer's allowance.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reviews his Department is undertaking into the efficacy and appropriateness of work capability assessments. [9305]

Chris Grayling: In March, a DWP-led review of the work capability assessment found that generally it is accurately identifying individuals for the right support. The review also made a number of recommendations for improving the assessment, including simplifying the language, making greater provision for people awaiting or in between courses of chemotherapy and people with certain communication and mental health problems, and taking greater account of how an individual has adapted to their condition or disability. On 29 June, we announced our intention to implement these recommendations, and we will now begin to revise the work capability assessment accordingly.

Additionally, we have a statutory commitment to arrange an independent review of the main elements of the work capability assessment every year for the first five years of operation. The review will be conducted by Professor Malcolm Harrington, acting as lead reviewer. Professor Harrington is a highly respected occupational physician and will be supported by a scrutiny group, who will review progress at intervals and peer review the final report. It is anticipated that a call for evidence will be made later this month.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of applicants for employment and support allowance *(a)* in each category of disability and *(b)* (i) with and (ii) without representation who were deemed ineligible as a result of the work capability assessment obtained the allowance on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [9301]

Chris Grayling: Data on the health condition of ESA applicants and whether they had representation are not available.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the work capability assessment—the statistics were last updated in April 2010 and published in the report "Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment: Official Statistics: April 2010", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The publication is also available on the internet at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

Work Choice Programme

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the status is of his Department's Work Choice programme. [8375]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Plymouth, Moor View (Alison Seabeck) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 689W.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence his Department holds on the effects on health of alcohol consumption; and what estimate he has made of the number of deaths from cancer in which alcohol was a contributing factor in the last 12 months. [8907]

Anne Milton: The Department reviewed the evidence on the known health effects of alcohol for its 1995 report 'Sensible Drinking'. A copy has been placed in the Library. Effects on health were also summarised in 'Dangerousness of Drugs' (National Addiction Centre, 2001 updated 2003) that was commissioned by the Department. The updated 2003 report has been placed in the Library.

The Committee on Carcinogenicity published a statement on the role of alcohol in breast cancer in November 2004.

The Department commissioned the North West Public Health Observatory to provide a detailed analysis of the impact of alcohol use on mortality and hospital admissions in its June 2008 report 'Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions'. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The Department has also analysed the key international research—particularly the extensive reviews on the effects of alcohol on health published by Corrao (Corrao et al 1999. Exploring the dose-response relationship between alcohol consumption and the risk of several alcohol-related conditions: a meta-analysis. 'Addiction' 94, 1551-1573.) and by Rehm (Rehm et al. 2004. In: WHO (ed), 'Comparative quantification of health risks: Global and regional burden of disease due to selected major risk factors'. Geneva: WHO.); and it has drawn on other published research and reports and on the advice of established experts.

The number of deaths in England from cancer in which alcohol was a contributing factor in 2005, the latest year for which data are readily available, is 3,163.

Note:

Figure is for all adults (aged 16 and over)

Source:

Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions, North West Public Health Observatory

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the incidence of alcohol dependency in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley. [9025]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally.

However, we are aware that in 2009-10, Bexley Care Trust conducted an alcohol needs assessment which estimated that there are approximately 4,200 dependent drinkers in the borough. Further information can be obtained from Bexley Care Trust.

Alcohol is a major public health issue and dependent drinkers are the group of drinkers at greatest risk of admission to hospital, for a range of illnesses.

We intend to ensure a proper focus on public health within the national health service and help ensure effective commissioning of services, with a focus on good outcomes from treatments, including treatment for alcohol dependence.

Cancer: Health Services

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the most appropriate regional level for specialist commissioning of rare cancers. [9219]

Mr Burstow: Specialised services are currently commissioned either regionally by Specialised Commissioning Groups or nationally by the National Specialised Commissioning Team. The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', published on 12 July 2010, proposes that the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning national and regional specialised services as set out in the Specialised Services National Definitions Set (SSNDS). The cancer definitions set can be found on the National Specialised Commissioning Group website at:

www.ncg.nhs.uk

The White Paper trailed a further document setting out the proposals on commissioning, providing the basis for consultation and engagement with health and care professionals and with the public.

It is anticipated that specialised commissioning will also be considered as part of the review of the Cancer Reform Strategy.

Carers: Greater Manchester

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated in Stretford and Urmston constituency under the Caring in Confidence programme; how much funding has been allocated to each organisation; how many carers *(a)* had received such funding as at March 2010 and *(b)* will have received such funding by March 2011. [9342]

Mr Burstow: There were no providers of face-to-face Caring with Confidence training located within the Stretford and Urmston constituency.

Departmental Consultants

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts his Department has entered into with external consultants since the Government came into office; and what the *(a)* name of the consultants, *(b)* terms of reference of the work, *(c)* monetary value of the contract and *(d)* expected date of completion of the work is in each case. [3596]

Mr Simon Burns *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The information is contained in the following tables:

Table A: Department of Health contracts awarded for departmental projects

External consultant	*Terms of reference*	*Contract value (£)*	*Completion date*
Quality Business Management Ltd	Provision of an adviser for Office of Government Commerce (OGC) process on Health Gateway	5,100	16 June 2010
Quality Business Management Ltd	Provision of an adviser for OGC process on Health Gateway	4,350	16 June 2010
Quality Business Management Ltd	Provision of an adviser for OGC process on Health Gateway	5,200	15 July 2010
Quality Business Management Ltd	Provision of an adviser for OGC process on Health Gateway	4,600	15 July 2010
Mott MacDonald Ltd	Provision of an adviser for OGC process on Health Gateway	5,875	9 July 2010
QI Consulting	Provision of adviser for OGC process on Health Gateway	4,600	15 July 2010
Evolve Business Consultancy Ltd	Provision of an adviser for OGC process on Health Gateway	4,890	15 July 2010
Inventures Ltd	Provision of an adviser for OGC process on Health Gateway	4,750	7July 2010
Malcolm Hutchinson Associates Ltd	Provision of an adviser for OGC process on Health Gateway	4,950	7 July 2010
Trenton Consultants Ltd	Fire risk assessment for Quarry House, Leeds	1,000	30 June 2010
Longmore Ltd	Cost and benefit assessment on carers workloads	15,000	27 August 2010
DPA Communications Ltd	Communications advice on 'Enhanced Recovery Programme'	4,255	31 March 2011

Source:
Department of Health

Table B: Department of Health contracts awarded to support the National Programme for IT

External consultant	*Terms of reference*	*Contract value (£)*	*Completion date*
Moorhouse Consulting	Testing of messaging patterns for 'Spine' services	110,000	17 September 2010
Intel	Design and development for 'Spine' services project	30,250	2 August 2010
Oracle	Design and development for 'Spine' services project	68,040	16 August 2010
Loughborough University Enterprises Ltd	Research to inform 'NHS Dictionary of Medicines and Devices'	32,990	4 October 2010
KPMG	Financial audit of two suppliers participating in the National Programme for IT	630,000	30 September 2010

Source:
Department of Health

Table C: Medicines and Healthcare regulatory Agency (MHRA) contracts

External consultant	*Terms of reference*	*Contract value (£)*	*Completion date*
IIR Management Development	Speed Reading course for 'Good Practice Management' inspectors	5,170	10 June 2010
Liz Allanson Consultancy	Development of syllabus and assessment for wholesaler distributors	4,575	31 July 2010
Michael Lock Consultant Psychologists Ltd	Assessment centre for 'Good Practice Management' inspectors	4,144	21 May 2010

Note:
The MHRA is an Executive agency of the Department of Health.
Source:
MHRA

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7485]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 1997, the Department has spent a total of £36,660 on logo design. The following table shows a breakdown of expenditure by financial year.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
1997-98	No recorded costs
1998-99	No recorded costs
1999-2000	No recorded costs
2000-01	No recorded costs
2001-02	No recorded costs
2002-03	Individual logo costs not identified[1]
2003-04	1,920
2004-05	No recorded costs
2005-06	No recorded costs
2006-07	Individual logo costs not identified[1]
2007-08	12,000
2008-09	22,740 Individual logo costs not identified[2]

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2009-10	No recorded costs

[1] It has not been possible to isolate logo costs from the overall design project.

[2] The Department is aware of additional expenditure on logo design in 2008-09 but is unable to isolate the costs from the overall design project.

Information on expenditure by agencies and non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7377]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on security expenditure is not available before April 2002.

Expenditure on security from 2001 to 2010, for the Department including NHS Connecting for Health, was as follows:

April to March each year	£
2002-03	1,032,127
2003-04	1,436,213
2004-05	1,599,608
2005-06	1,207,172
2006-07	1,356,658
2007-08	1,592,884
2008-09	1,384,410
2009-10	1,509,351

Comprehensive information on security expenditure from all of our non-departmental bodies and executive agencies is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Limited information from 2001 to 2010 has been obtained from the General Social Care Council, Care Quality Commission, Health Protection Agency, Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority, Appointments Commission.

Total expenditure on security by these bodies was as follows:

April to March each year	£
2001-02	8,000
2002-03	31,758
2003-04	164,251
2004-05	271,000
2005-06	823,758
2006-07	878,000
2007-08	970,000
2008-09	1,041,000
2009-10	1,474,000

Food Standards Agency

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of his proposed plan to incorporate into his Department the nutrition functions of the Food Standards Agency. [9374]

Anne Milton: The Department is currently establishing detailed costings for the transfer.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to consult on his proposals to incorporate into his Department the nutrition functions of the Food Standards Agency; [9375]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ministers in the devolved Administrations on his proposed plan to incorporate into his Department the nutrition functions of the Food Standards Agency. [9377]

Anne Milton: The Department has sought views from the devolved Administrations on proposals to transfer responsibility for nutrition policy for England from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to the Department.

We are working closely with the FSA on the transfer. We will be consulting with unions as part of the implementation process.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he undertook a cost-benefit analysis of his proposal to incorporate into his Department the nutrition functions of the Food Standards Agency. [9376]

Anne Milton: No. We are currently establishing detailed costings of the transfer. We are confident that it will bring significant benefits to consumers through a more co-ordinated, coherent policy-making process and consistent messages on a healthy, balanced diet.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the openness and transparency with which the Food Standards Agency deals with nutritional issues; and if he will incorporate such principles into the work of his Department's expanded nutrition division; [9379]

(2) what assessment he has made of the process of decision-making on nutritional issues in the Food Standards Agency; and if he will incorporate such processes in the work of his Department's expanded nutrition division. [9380]

Anne Milton: We recognise the contribution that the Food Standards Agency has made on a range of nutritional issues. The staff who are transferred to the Department will operate on the same basis as existing departmental civil servants.

Nutrition policy will continue to be informed by evidence and scientific expertise, including advice from independent experts. The Department is also committed to providing evidence-based advice to consumers to support them in making healthier lifestyle choices.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the access of representatives of *(a)* non-governmental organisations and *(b)* the food industry to senior executives of the Food Standards Agency; and if he will make a statement. [9381]

Anne Milton: None. The Food Standards Agency will remain a non-ministerial Government Department, therefore senior executives will continue to meet with non-government organisations and the food industry as appropriate.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff of each pay band work in the nutrition division of his Department; and how many staff at each pay band he plans to incorporate into that division from the corresponding division of the Food Standards Agency. [9382]

Anne Milton: There are 10 permanent staff in the nutrition team of the Department which are as follows:

Grade	*Number*
Grade 6	2
Grade 7	2
Senior executive officer	1
Higher executive officer	2
Executive officer	2

Following the announcement on 20 July 2010 about the transfer of staff from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to the Department, we are working with the FSA to agree the number of staff who will join the Department's nutrition team.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of service is of staff employed at each office of the Food Standards Agency. [9709]

Anne Milton: The average length of service (in years) of staff employed at each office of the Food Standards Agency (FSA), as at 31 March 2010, is as follows:

	Length of service (years)
Westminster	8.70
Scotland	4.47
Wales	4.92
NI	4.78

Notes:

The response provided is in relation to the FSA. The table does not include staff numbers for the Meat Hygiene Service, an Executive Agency of the FSA.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* running costs and *(b)* fixed accommodation costs were of each office of the Food Standards Agency in each of the last five years. [9710]

Anne Milton: The information is as follows:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
FSA Westminster:					
Fixed costs	7,428,796	7,466,818	7,558,302	7,532,636	7,718,792
Running costs	1,364,682	1,465,124	1,521,704	[1]2,337,929	1,893,853
FSA Scotland:					
Fixed costs	225,590	372,696	269,630	334,932	304,253
Running costs	25,399	55,820	48,219	64,624	[1]175,160
FSA Wales:					
Fixed costs	108,861	171,383	86,301	80,287	84,206
Running costs	10,810	37,932	32,383	59,984	67,104
FSA NI:					
Fixed costs	161,755	172,029	164,879	168,847	177,055
Running costs	44,741	82,301	55,068	62,985	66,693

[1] The increases for FSA Westminster 2008 and FSA Scotland 2009 relate to one-off refurbishments.

Fixed costs include rent, rates and building insurance costs.

Running costs include repairs and maintenance, utilities, security, facilities management, cleaning and catering costs.

General Practitioners

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to encourage GPs to take part in GP commissioning; [9215]

(2) what financial training and support his Department plans to provide to GPs to manage health budgets. [9216]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published on 12 July 2010, sets out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices.

A fundamental principle of the new arrangements is that every GP practice will be a member of a consortium, as a corollary of holding a list of registered patients.

GP consortia will have the freedom to decide what commissioning activities they undertake for themselves and for what activities (such as some aspects of financial management) they may choose to buy in support from external organisations, including local authorities, private and voluntary sector bodies.

Primary care trusts will also have an important task in the next two years in supporting practices to prepare for the new arrangements.

We will shortly issue a document setting out our proposals in more detail. This will provide the basis for fuller engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how he plans to ensure co-ordination of services under GP commissioning for cancer; [9217]

(2) how he plans to ensure that GPs have the expertise to commission the full range of services needed for complex diseases. [9218]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010, sets out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

Primary care professionals co-ordinate all the services that patients receive, helping them to navigate the system and ensure that they get the best care. For this reason they are best placed to co-ordinate the commissioning of care for their patients while involving all other clinical professionals who are also part of any pathway.

The NHS Commissioning Board will also host some clinical commissioning networks, for example for rarer cancers, to pool specialist expertise.

A document setting out these proposals in more detail will be issued shortly, providing the basis for further engagement with health and care professionals and with the public.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 661-681, on NHS White Paper, what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other resources will be provided to GPs to enable them to undertake commissioning. [9298]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published on 12 July 2010, sets out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

The NHS Commissioning Board will calculate practice-level budgets and allocate these directly to GP consortia. GP consortia will be responsible for managing the combined commissioning budgets of their member GP practices, and using these resources to improve healthcare and health outcomes.

We envisage that consortia will receive a maximum management allowance to reflect the costs associated with commissioning. Consortia will have the freedom to decide what commissioning activities they undertake for themselves and for what activities (such as demographic analysis) they may choose to buy in support from external organisations, including local authorities, private and voluntary sector bodies.

We will shortly issue a document setting out our proposals in more detail. This will provide the basis for fuller engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public.

NHS Commissioning Board

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 661-81, on NHS White Paper, (1) what the expected governance model is for the NHS Commissioning Board; [9293]

(2) what arrangements there will be for the NHS Commissioning board to report to *(a)* him and *(b)* the Permanent Secretary of his Department; [9299]

(3) how members of the NHS Commissioning Board will be appointed; what their remuneration will be; and how many days per month they will be expected to work. [9300]

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who will have responsibility for appointing the members of the NHS Commissioning Board; what criteria will be used to determine the salary and remuneration package for members of that board; and whether details of the salary and remuneration package of members of that board will be published; [9714]

(2) what accountability mechanisms he plans to establish in respect of the NHS Commissioning Board; what powers there will be to remove NHS Commissioning Board members under his proposals; by whom and by what mechanisms; how the performance of the NHS Commissioning Board will be evaluated; and what sanctions will be available to whom if the NHS Commissioning Board does not meet its objectives. [9787]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July stated the Government's intention to establish an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

As set out in the White Paper, it is the Government's intention that the Secretary of State will be obliged to set out objectives for the NHS Commissioning Board on an annual basis, including improvements against agreed outcome indicators, against which the performance of the board will be evaluated. We envisage that the NHS Commissioning Board will be required to report annually on how it has performed against those objectives.

We intend to introduce legislation to establish the NHS Commissioning Board later this year. The Health Bill will set out further details about how members of the board will be appointed, provision as to the terms of their appointment, their remuneration and how they will be held to account.

The Department will be consulting over the summer on the indicators that it would be appropriate to use to use to assess the outcomes achieved by the Commissioning Board.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps will be taken in relation to hospitals which do not meet the financial requirements to become a foundation trust. [9179]

Mr Simon Burns: Within three years, we will support all national health service trusts to become foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust is unsustainable, the Secretary of State may, as a matter of last resort, apply the trust administration regime set out in the Health Act 2009.

As set out in the White Paper, "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", the new economic regulator, Monitor will also play a role in ensuring that access to essential services is maintained.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to prevent foundation trusts from over-spending their budget following the implementation of the proposals in the White Paper "Liberating the NHS". [9180]

Mr Simon Burns: As set out in the White Paper, "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", foundation trusts will be in charge of their own destiny, without central or regional management or support. This will be supported by a system of economic regulation overseen by Monitor that will drive efficiency. It will include a rules-based special administration regime. Hidden bail-outs will end.

NHS: Costs

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's estimate is of the redundancy costs which will arise from the proposed abolition of *(a)* regional health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts; [9060]

(2) what estimate has been made of the net cost to the public purse of implementing all the proposals in the Health White Paper. [9084]

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost is of *(a)* abolishing strategic health authorities and primary care trusts and *(b)* establishing GP commissioning. [9213]

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 661-681, on NHS White Paper, what his estimate is of the cost of abolishing primary care trusts and strategic health authorities. [9297]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run. It will not be possible to give a precise estimate of the costs of implementing these reforms until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail. The Government will publish an impact assessment later this year in the light of consultation on the detailed approach to implementation.

However, the White Paper made clear that NHS management costs will be cut by more than 45% over the next four years. We will ensure that the one-off costs of implementing the White Paper are affordable within the requirements of the wider spending review, while ensuring funding is focused on front-line patient care.

Salt: Health Education

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on the recent Government advertising campaign to encourage people to eat less salt. [9326]

Anne Milton: The most recent phase of the Food Standards Agency's public awareness campaign to encourage people to eat less salt, which launched in October 2009, cost £3,466,808. This includes all campaign costs such as advertising, production, research, marketing and public relations and online work.

Self-harm

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of a *(a)* national, *(b)* regional and *(c)* local mechanism for the (i) provision of information and (ii) evaluation of best practice in respect of services and support available to those who self-harm; and if he will make a statement. [9028]

Mr Burstow: Self-harm is most commonly managed in secondary care. This includes both hospital medical care and mental health services. About half of the people who present to an accident and emergency department (A and E) after self-harming are assessed by a mental health professional. Treatments include psychological interventions, pharmacological interventions and harm management.

The national health service will be backed with increased real resources yet we recognise that there are still efficiencies to be made. However, we intend to make sure front-line services in the NHS as a whole are protected from cuts.

We will be assessing our priorities carefully and will announce details on mental health policy, including self-harm, in due course. Our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive to patients' choice and management of their own care, and delivering best health outcomes.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will allocate funding for research into the effect of *(a)* the internet and *(b)* social networking sites on those who self-harm; and if he will make a statement. [9029]

Mr Burstow: The Policy Research Programme will fund research which provides evidence to support policy.

We will be assessing our priorities carefully and will announce details on mental health policy, in due course. Our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive to patients' choice and management of their own care, and delivering best 'health' outcomes.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of support provided by his Department to third sector organisations assisting people who *(a)* are suspected to be at the risk of suicide and *(b)* self-harm; and if he will make a statement. [9031]

Mr Burstow: The Department has not made a recent assessment of the adequacy of the level of support it has provided to third sector organisations who assist people who are suspected to be at risk of suicide and self-harm. While suicide rates in England have been falling since the 1980s and are now among the lowest in Europe, we are actively considering how best to make further progress.

The Department's main source of funding to charitable sector is under the Third Sector Investment Programme, Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund (IESD). This fund seeks to support third sector innovation, promote and embed excellence, and provide investment to grow quality sustainable services; to inform national policy, and support the sector's role in improvement and innovation. Departmental preferences are decided upon annually and organisations who consider that they meet the eligibility criteria and preferences are welcome to apply.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will allocate funding to *(a)* assess the quality and provision of services by primary care trusts to those who self-harm and *(b)* research the causes of self-harm; and if he will issue guidance to clinicians on the provision of treatment to reduce the incidence of self-harm. [9032]

Mr Burstow: The National Institute for health and Clinical Excellence guideline on self-harm covers:

> the care people who harm themselves can expect to receive from health care professionals in hospital and out of hospital;
>
> the information they can expect to receive;
>
> what they can expect from treatment; and
>
> what kinds of services best help people who harm themselves.

As a new Government we have a large number of issues to tackle. We will be assessing our priorities carefully and will announce details on mental health policy, including suicide and self-harm, in due course. Our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive to patients' choice and management of their own care, and delivering best health outcomes.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of incidents of self-harm amongst *(a)* prisoners, *(b)* asylum seekers, *(c)* armed forces veterans, *(d)* people bereaved by suicide, *(e)* ethnic minority groups and *(f)* sexual orientation minority groups in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [9034]

Mr Burstow: We do not collect these data centrally, and nor does the national health service information centre.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the standard of services across *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* local authorities for people who self-harm; and if he will make a statement. [9035]

Mr Burstow: The provision and funding of local health services, including anger management, is a decision for primary care trusts, in partnership with their strategic health authorities. Therefore, we have made no such assessment.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who have *(a)* self-harmed and *(b)* attempted suicide who have been able to access clinically-trained psychiatric staff when presenting at hospital accident and emergency departments; and if he will make a statement. [9089]

Mr Burstow: We have not made an estimate of this nature. However, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on self-harm does make clear that clinical and non-clinical staff who have contact with people who self-harm in any setting should be provided with appropriate training to equip them to understand and care for people who have self-harmed.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of self-harm by *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each age group there were in each primary care trust in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [9090]

Mr Burstow: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were discharged from hospital following an episode of *(a)* self-harm and *(b)* attempted suicide in cases where there has been no (i) psychiatric assessment of their mental state, (ii) needs assessment, (iii) care plan, (iv) follow-through GP appointment and (v) provision for any further service or support; and if he will make a statement. [9107]

Mr Burstow: This information is not collected centrally. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for those who self-harm or attempt suicide make a number of recommendations including a psychiatric assessment of mental state, needs assessment, care plan, follow-through general practitioner appointment and that provision for any further service or support should be carried out. Information on compliance with these recommendations is not collected centrally.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* people who self-harm, *(b)* carers of those who self-harm, *(c)* health service professionals and *(d)* third sector workers on (i) the provision of services, (ii) the effectiveness of services and (iii) the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for those who self-harm; and if he will make a statement. [9108]

Mr Burstow: We have had no such discussion thus far. We will be assessing our priorities carefully and will announce details on mental health policy, including self-harm, in due course. Our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive to patients' choice and management of their own care, and delivering best health outcomes.

The national health service will be backed with increased real resources yet we recognise that there are still efficiencies to be made, however, we intend to make sure front-line services in the NHS as a whole are protected from cuts.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of training provided to increase the levels of understanding of staff working in hospital accident and emergency departments of self-harm; and if he will make a statement. [9109]

Mr Burstow: It is for United Kingdom health professions regulators to ensure patient safety by establishing minimum standards (qualifications, health and character) required to hold a protected professional title (for example, paramedic) and quality assuring the provision of education to ensure that it meets the standards set. Therefore, we have made no such assessment.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the level of compliance by primary care trusts with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on *(a)* self-harm and *(b)* suicide; and if he will make a statement; [9111]

(2) if he will hold discussions with the Royal College of Psychiatrists on the extent to which their members meet the standards set by the National Institute for

Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines and professional practice in relation to self-harm; and if he will make a statement. [9465]

Mr Burstow: We have made no such assessment. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines are not enforced, but are recommendations. The provision and funding of local health services is a decision for primary care trusts, in partnership with their strategic health authorities.

Ministers have and will continue to have meetings with a range of stakeholders, including the Royal Colleges, on mental health policy.

Suicide

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* people who have attempted suicide, *(b)* carers of people who have attempted suicide, *(c)* health professionals and *(d)* third sector workers on (i) the provision of services, (ii) the effectiveness of services and (iii) the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for those who have attempted suicide; and if he will make a statement; [8961]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a public health strategy on self-harm; and if he will make a statement; [9085]

(3) if he will discuss with ministerial colleagues in the devolved Administrations the merits of research into the effectiveness of the suicide prevention strategies; and if he will make a statement. [9088]

Mr Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 96W.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will commission research on the effect on the incidence of suicide of economic downturns; and if he will make a statement; [10654]

(2) if he will commission research on the effect on the incidence of self-harm of economic downturns; and if he will make a statement. [10655]

Mr Burstow: The Department has not commissioned research on the impact of the economic downturn on levels of demand for mental health services. However, we recognise that there are links between poor mental health and difficult economic circumstances and, in the current climate, it is understandable that people might worry more about their finances and employment. Our confirmation of the final £70 million instalment of growth funding from the current spending round for the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme is enabling primary care trusts to broaden the geographical coverage of services, meaning more people can get help, and to increase the range of therapies available, giving people more choice and access to the right psychological support.

EDUCATION

Academies: Chesterfield

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Chesterfield have *(a)* been classified as outstanding, *(b)* expressed interest in becoming academy schools and *(c)* been approved for academy school status in the last three years. [6747]

Mr Gibb: The schools in the town of Chesterfield[1] that have been judged outstanding by Ofsted at their most recent inspection are listed in the following table.

[1] Post codes beginning with S40-S43 and S45

Name of school	*Phase of education*
Brookfield Community School	Secondary
Ashover Primary School	Primary
Brockwell Junior school	Primary
Brockwell Nursery and Infant School	Primary
Clowne Infant and Nursery School	Primary
Cutthorpe Primary School	Primary
Hasland Junior School	Primary
Henry Bradley Infant School	Primary
Spire Junior School	Primary
Westfield Infant School	Primary

As at 7 July 2010 none of the above schools have expressed an interest in becoming an Academy.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the Barnett consequentials of his announcements on the Building Schools for the Future programme. [9024]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

No Barnett consequentials arose from the Secretary of State for Education's announcement in respect of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Children: Databases

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from local authorities in the West Midlands on the decision to end the ContactPoint database. [8200]

Tim Loughton: We have confirmed with local authorities and other partners our firm intention to end the ContactPoint database as soon as is practicable. Both coalition partners' manifestos included a clear commitment to scrap ContactPoint, to fulfil a longstanding policy commitment, discussed with a wide range of interested organisations in recent years. We have consistently opposed a database, which contains details about all children in England, accessed by hundreds of thousands of people and we signalled our opposition in debates on the original legislation in the 2004 Children Act.

The Department for Education has received no representations from local authorities in the west midlands on this decision. We will continue to engage with and draw on the views with a wide range of organisations as we consider the scope for a more proportionate approach to protecting children most in need.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on the ContactPoint scheme in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [8201]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has provided grant funding to local authorities and national partners to support the local implementation of ContactPoint. £2,621,000 was paid to the 14 children's services authorities in the west midlands in the 2009-10 financial year. Grant payments made to these authorities between 1 April and 30 June 2010 (inclusive) were £377,555.75. Within these totals, the amounts paid to Dudley metropolitan borough council were £170,000 in 2009-10, and £23,747.75 for 1 April to 30 June 2010.

Figures are not available for spending broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9257]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not have a central record of the time taken by contractors to pay their sub-contractors and the information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Medical Reports: Sexual Abuse

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his proposal to publish serious case reviews in full includes the publication of medical reports on victims of physical and sexual abuse. [9482]

Tim Loughton: Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to publish both the overview report and the executive summary—anonymised and without identifying details—for all Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) initiated on or after 10 June unless there are compelling child welfare reasons for this not to happen. We do not expect published SCR overview reports or executive summaries to include medical reports, but they may include medical information. Local Safeguarding Children Boards should take account of the Data Protection Act and of legal and other requirements in respect of confidential medical information.

Outdoor Education: Finance

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department expects to allocate to the Learning Outside the Classroom programme in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [8139]

Mr Gibb: We are still considering our priorities and no decisions have yet been taken on funding from April 2011. We will however be responding before the summer recess to a report issued on 1 April 2010 by the then Children Schools and Families Select Committee on "Transforming Education Outside the Classroom".

Schools: ICT

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the educational value of interactive whiteboards as compared with blackboards; what cost-benefit analysis of interactive whiteboards has been undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [7691]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* The Department last commissioned a major study into Interactive Whiteboards in 2004-06. The Primary Schools Whiteboard Expansion project (PSWE) monitored the effects of the acquisition and use of interactive whiteboards. It found measurable improvements in results in a range of Key Stage 2 tests as teachers became used to the equipment during the first two years after installation.

Schools: Management

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what safeguards he plans to put in place to prevent inappropriate groups from being approved to manage the proposed free schools; and if he will make a statement. [7538]

Mr Gibb: Free School proposers will be subject to a rigorous vetting process at the proposal stage, including an enhanced CRB check and background suitability checks. Individuals may be prohibited from taking part in the management of a Free School on grounds relating to misconduct.

The Secretary of State will consider each proposal on its merits and take into account all matters relevant to that proposal and will generally reject any proposers who advocate violence, intolerance, hatred or whose ideology runs counter to the UK's democratic values.

Social Services

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to *(a)* recruit and *(b)* retain and support social workers. [7076]

Tim Loughton: The Government are committed to implementing the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force, which collectively comprise a programme of work to support social work including recruitment, retention and support of social workers. I have asked the Social Work Reform Board to continue its work to deliver these recommendations, which include:

a new and independent College for Social Work, led and owned by the profession;

a career structure for social workers so that experienced practitioners can progress in front line roles as well as management;

a new standard for employers to ensure that they put in place the conditions that social workers need to practice effectively;

a model for forecasting levels of supply and demand for social workers to assist employers in planning for the workforce they need; and

local authority children's services in 2010-11 to support local social work improvement activity.

The Department also confirmed continued funding in 2010-11 of recruitment and The Social Work Reform Board will work closely with Professor Eileen Munro during her review of child protection, launched by the Secretary of State for Education on 10 June.

Additionally, on the same day as the launch of Professor Munro's review the Department announced a £23 million Local Social Work Improvement Fund available to retention programmes led by the Children's Workforce Development Council including:

The Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) programme to help social work graduates transition into the workforce;

Early Professional Development for social workers in their second and third years of practice, building on the NQSW programme; and

Graduate Recruitment and Step Up to Social Work schemes to encourage high quality graduates to train to be social workers.

Special Educational Needs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the average length of the time taken for a child with special educational needs to be statemented by the relevant local authority in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England. [8762]

Sarah Teather: The statutory time limit for finalising a statement of special educational needs (SEN) is 26 weeks from an originating request for an assessment. The relevant Regulations set out exceptions to the internal time limits which make up the 26 weeks, for example when local authorities do not receive advice from the health service within time.

The Department does not collect data on the average length of time taken to finalise statements. However, last year the Department published data on the percentage of statements which local authorities completed within the statutory 26 weeks. The data showed that, in 2008-09, across England 91% of statements where none of the statutory exceptions applied were completed within time and 82% of all statements, including ones where the statutory exceptions applied. The figures for North Yorkshire were 85% and 80% respectively. The data is available at the Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

A Statistical Release providing these data for 2009-10 will be published in December 2010.

Teach First

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many trainee teachers participated in the Teach First programme in 2009; how many trainee teachers he expects to participate in that programme in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and if he will make a statement. [8757]

Tim Loughton: In 2008/09, there were 370 trainees recruited to the Teach First programme. Provisional data for the autumn term 2009/10 indicate there were 480 recruits. This information has been published as part of Statistical First Release (23/2009): School Workforce in England at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Addition_A.xls

In 2010/11, some 620 places will be available for the Teach First programme. In 2011/12 it is expected that 660 places will be made available.

Teachers: Conditions of Employment

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the effects on *(a)* staff flexibility and *(b)* school budgets of the operation of the rarely cover procedure in schools; and if he will review the operation of the procedure in order to mitigate such effects. [8625]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* This Government want to provide schools with greater freedoms and flexibilities by freeing up school teachers' pay and conditions and giving greater powers back to heads. As part of delivering this commitment we will want to consider a wide range of issues, including the operation of rarely cover.

Teachers: Training

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will undertake an investigation of the arrangements for training teachers for the purpose of raising the standard of teaching in schools. [7082]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The Department is already investigating a number of proposals that will improve the training of teachers so that standards of teaching are raised in schools. It is the Government's ambition to improve the prestige of the profession so that it attracts the highest quality entrants and to base more initial teacher training in schools so that trainees spend as much time in the classroom as possible, learning from the best teachers. For example, the Secretary of State has already announced plans to expand the successful Teach First scheme so that more schools, including for the first time primary schools, may benefit from the talents of the country's best graduates.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* charged and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in each London borough in each of the last five years. [9026]

James Brokenshire: The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued and the number proceeded against for 'selling alcohol to persons aged under 18', in London (Metropolitan and City of London police force area combined), 2004 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Data on the number of cautions issued in London are not available.

Information held centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by borough of London area, therefore Metropolitan and City of London Police Force Area data has been provided in lieu. Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued the number of persons cautioned and proceeded against[1] for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2] in London[3] from 2004-08[4]

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Penalty notices for disorder	21	161	252	341	260
Proceeded against	167	253	236	176	71
Cautions	—	—	—	—	—

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Includes the following offences:

(a) Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.

(b) Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.

(c) Sale of alcohol to person under 18.

(d) Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18.

(e) Persistently selling alcohol to children.

[3] Includes the City of London and Metropolitan police force.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

JSAS

Asylum: Domestic Violence

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 195W, on asylum: domestic violence, what timetable she has set for the *(a)* full evaluation and *(b)* publication of the report on the pilot project; against what criteria the pilot will be assessed; and what steps her department is taking to make interim arrangements for those with no recourse to public funds. [9748]

Damian Green: A Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009 and was scheduled to run to the end of August 2010. On 16 July, the Home Secretary announced an extension to the pilot until the end of March 2011 and a commitment to find a long-term funding solution to the issue. The pilot is monitored on a monthly basis and a full evaluation will take place following completion of the pilot.

British Nationality: Overseas Students

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 138W, on British nationality: overseas students, whether time spent on a student visa counts towards the qualifying period for UK citizenship. [9808]

Damian Green: The position has not changed. Time spent in the United Kingdom on a student visa can count towards the residence requirements for naturalisation if a person meets the statutory requirements on the date of application.

Crime: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to treat anti-Semitic crimes as distinct from other crimes of racial hatred; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [R] [8577]

James Brokenshire: The Government are committed to tackling hate crime. The police, CPS and courts have a wide range of legal powers to deal with racial and religious hatred and incitement to hatred. We currently have no plans to bring forward proposals to treat anti-Semitic crimes as distinct from other crimes of racial hatred. We have not received any recent representations on this specific issue.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) National Community Tension Team collect anti-Semitic data. We are working with them to assess whether it is possible to publish this.

Deportation: Florence and Precious Mhango

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the deportation of Florence and Precious Mhango. [9640]

Damian Green: I cannot comment on individual cases. However, Home Office Ministers expect families who have been told by our courts that they have no basis to remain in the UK to leave voluntarily. Where they refuse to do so their removal may be enforced.

Detainees: Children

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from what date children will no longer be detained for immigration purposes; and if she will make a statement. [9763]

Damian Green: This Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. We want to replace the current system with something that ensures that families with no right to be in this country return in a more dignified manner. I have asked for a review to identify ways in which this could be achieved. An announcement on the way forward will be made once that process is complete.

Domestic Violence

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to end the retention of Domestic violence [9875]

James Brokenshire: Since the 30 March 2009 the DNA profiles of all children under 10 in England and Wales has been removed from the National DNA Database and no further DNA has been retained.

The Government are currently consulting on the retention of DNA as part of the "Your Freedom" website. We will be considering the responses before bringing forward provisions in the Freedom Bill in the first Session.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons identified as trafficked into the UK and not eligible for the National Referral Mechanism were deported in each of the last five years. [9000]

Damian Green: Anyone who claims to be a victim of trafficking or is identified by front line agencies such as the police, local authorities or UK Border Agency as being a potential victim of trafficking is eligible to enter the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

There is currently no record of any enforced returns of individuals conclusively found to be victims of trafficking to their country of origin since the NRM came into force on 1 April 2009.

Identity Cards: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in Scotland applied for an identity card. [9639]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 434W.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on steps to counter illegal immigration. [8714]

Damian Green: The five year plan of the coalition Government shows that we are committed to striking at the heart of illegal immigration and tackling those who break the rules. This includes using intelligence to target terrorist suspects, known criminals and would be illegal immigrants before they cross the border. All passengers arriving in the United Kingdom are checked against Watchlists. We will continue to utilise the latest technology to ensure our border checks remain robust. We will increase public confidence in the immigration system by removing those who have no right to be here more efficiently, and speeding up the processing of asylum claims. We will continue to work closely with our UK and international partners to ensure long term success in fighting illegal immigration.

Immigration

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK were refused indefinite leave to remain in each year since 1997; [6219]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK were refused asylum in each year since 1997; [6221]

(3) how many people in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK were refused further leave to remain in each year since 1997; [6222]

(4) how many people living in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK were removed from the UK in each year since 1997; [6223]

(5) how many people in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK were granted further leave to remain in the UK in each year since 1997; [6224]

(6) how many people in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK were granted asylum in each year since 1997; [6225]

(7) how many people were granted indefinite leave to remain in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [6227]

Damian Green: Information has been requested for Weaver Vale constituency and Cheshire.

While UKBA holds information on the number of grants, refusals and removals relating to specific areas we do not produce regular reports broken down in this manner. Therefore, to provide information for these areas would be at a disproportionate cost.

We are, however, able to provide all of this data for the UK and for removals and asylum applications for the North West as shown in the following tables.

We have assumed the 'North West' to cover the same geographical area as the UKBA North West region. This region was formed following a restructuring of UKBA in 2006; therefore we are only able to report at this level from this time.

It should be noted that whilst the data captures asylum applications processed within the North West, applicants may no longer reside in the region.

The North West region is a processing centre for applications for indefinite leave to remain nationally whilst applications for temporary residence (leave to remain and further leave to remain) are processed nationally in the North East Yorkshire and Humber Region. It is therefore not possible to answer questions one, three, five and seven for North West cases only.

National breakdown

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
1. ILR/ILE Refusals	1,735	1,380	515	2,140	2,155	4.260	9.670
2. Asylum Grants	3,985	5,345	7,815	10,375	11,450	8,270	3,865
3. FLTR refusals	6,465	5,160	3,775	9,100	13,325	14,315	23,505
4. Removals	31,150	34,920	37,780	46,645	50,625	68,630	64,390
5. FLTR grants	117,355	103,085	109,040	157,650	189,145	244,400	356,245
6. Asylum Refusals	28,945	22,315	11.025	75,680	89,310	55,130	53,865
7. ILR/ILE grants	58,725	69,790	97,115	125,945	108,410	115,965	139.280

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1. ILR/ILE Refusals	6,525	6,260	8,365	11,875	7.420	9,800
2. Asylum Grants	1,565	1,940	2,170	3,545	3,725	4,175
3. FLTR refusals	24,730	27,175	20,175	23.555	21,120	49,215
4. Removals	61,160	58,215	63,865	63,365	67,980	64,750
5. FLTR grants	287,765	263,125	267,995	274,020	267,865	251,245
6. Asylum Refusals	40,465	22,655	16,460	16,030	13,505	17,805
7. ILR/ILE grants	139,210	179,120	134,445	124,855	148,740	192,680

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Removals data includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
3. Published statistics report on settlement cases which include ILE and ILR, these cannot be separated.
4. Grants and refusals of FLTR and ILR/ILE include reconsideration cases and the outcomes of appeals and exclude asylum related cases from 2003.
5. Asylum grants and refusals include initial decisions, excluding outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
6. Information on immigration and asylum is published quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

North West breakdown:

	2006	2007	2008	2009
2. Asylum Grants	98	582	690	763
4. Removals (FY)	2,030	1,533	1,315	1,736
6. Asylum Refusals	212	1,095	1460	2207

Note:

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Immigration: Children

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children accompanying nationals of EEA states were interviewed separately by officials of the UK Border Agency and its predecessors at ports of entry in each of the last five years. [9001]

Damian Green: Records are not held on the number of children who were interviewed separately by officials of the UK Border Agency, where they were accompanied by nationals of EEA states, for each of the last five years. Such information could be obtained only by detailed examination of case records on the UK Border Agency Central Information Database (CID). This could be completed only at disproportionate cost to the agency.

Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 places a legal duty on border force officers to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people as part of their work.

In carrying out this Section 55 duty, border force officers will make enquiries when any child arrives in the UK unaccompanied, or with a person other than their parent, to ensure they are satisfied that suitable arrangements have been made for the child's reception and welfare in the UK.

There is no mandatory requirement for a European economic area/European Union national child to travel with a letter consenting to their travel, if not travelling with their parents.

Passengers holding EEA passports or identity cards are not subject to immigration control. However, they are required to satisfy a border force officer as to their nationality and identity.

Immigration: Detainees

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were held in detention under immigration laws in each of the last 12 months. [9777]

Damian Green: The requested information is not available. The following table shows the number of persons entering detention in each of the last 12 months for which figures have been published.

Information on detention relating to the second quarter 2010 will be available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April-June 2010 on 26 August 2010 in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

I recently announced a review into the detention of children for asylum purposes so it can be brought to an end this summer. We have already ended the overnight detention of children at Dungavel.

Persons entering detention[1, 2] held solely under Immigration Act powers, by age[3], (excluding Harwich), by month April 2009 to March 2010[4, 5]
United Kingdom

Number of persons

	Persons entering detention						
			Children[3]				
	Total detainees	Adults[3]	Under 5 years	5-11 years	12-16 years	16 years	Total
April 2009	2,460	2,385	30	25	15	—	75
May 2009	2,425	2,345	40	30	5	*	60
June 2009	2,315	2,235	50	20	10	*	80

Persons entering detention[1, 2] held solely under Immigration Act powers, by age[3], (excluding Harwich), by month April 2009 to March 2010[4, 5]
United Kingdom

Number of persons

		Persons entering detention					
			Children[3]				
	Total detainees	Adults[3]	Under 5 years	5-11 years	12-16 years	16 years	Total
July 2009	2,615	2,480	50	50	30	10	135
August 2009	2,190	2,100	45	30	15	*	90
September 2009	2,310	2,220	40	25	20	5	90
October 2009	2,490	2,395	40	40	15	5	100
November 2009	2,375	2,265	55	45	10	*	110
December 2009	2,050	1,975	40	20	10	*	75
January 2010	2,325	2,235	35	30	15	10	95
February 2010	2,240	2,170	30	25	10	5	70
March 2010	2,330	2,260	30	30	10	*	65

[1] These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and maybe subject to change.

[2] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown, such as a person who has left detention, but has subsequently been re-detained.

[3] Recorded age at the start of their period of detention. Figures for children will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

[4] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as entering Harwich Short Term Holding Facility, police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

[5] Figures include dependants.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were deported from the UK to each country of destination in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [8999]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures, by country of destination, 2005-09.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom[1, 2], by country of destination, 2005-09[3, 5]

Number of departures

Country of destination[4]	2005	2006	2007	2008[5]	2009[5]
Afghanistan	940	975	985	875	1,180
Albania	1,165	1,690	1,440	1,025	735
Algeria	325	390	405	450	335
American Samoa	5	5	5	*	10
Angola	190	135	110	115	75
Anguilla	—	—	—	*	—
Antigua and Barbuda	50	55	105	55	55
Argentina	65	80	85	75	60
Armenia	20	15	20	20	5
Aruba	—	*	5	—	—
Australia	275	315	395	410	365
Austria	270	145	110	75	95
Azerbaijan	70	70	35	30	15
Bahamas	5	25	5	15	10
Bahrain	15	15	25	35	40
Bangladesh	665	705	1,170	1,655	1.075
Barbados	105	100	120	125	95
Belarus	65	75	75	55	30
Belgium	735	740	685	735	610
Belize	5	5	5	10	*
Benin	20	10	20	15	10
Bermuda	5	*	5	5	5
Bhutan	—	*	5	—	*
Bolivia	375	310	395	530	555
Bosnia and Herzegovina	25	20	15	10	10
Botswana	70	70	55	35	45
Brazil	3,890	3,370	3,740	3,895	4,190
British Virgin Islands	*	—	*	*	—
Brunei	10	10	10	15	5
Bulgaria	195	180	10	20	40
Burkina Faso	5	5	5	5	*
Burundi	15	10	25	20	10
Cambodia	—	5	—	*	5
Cameroon	60	80	260	140	140
Canada	455	550	655	700	630
Cape Verde	5	*	5	5	—
Cayman Islands	—	—	5	5	5
Central African Republic	5	5	*	5	—
Chad	25	15	5	10	5
Chile	65	65	75	75	75
China (inc. Taiwan)	490	680	1,120	1,745	2,835
Colombia	375	395	305	260	195
Comoros	*	—	—	—	—
Congo	65	80	50	40	50
Costa Rica	15	15	10	15	10
Croatia	130	210	185	160	95
Cuba	15	10	20	5	10
Cyprus	25	70	40	35	30

Removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom[1, 2], by country of destination, 2005-09[3, 5]

Number of departures

Country of destination[4]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[5]	*2009*[5]
Czech Republic	70	90	70	70	75
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	65	125	180	95	125
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	—	*	*	10	5
Denmark	120	95	75	115	105
Djibouti	5	*	*	5	*
Dominica	20	25	30	30	30
Dominican Republic	5	20	15	20	10
East Timor	5	*	*	—	—
Ecuador	265	210	200	150	120
Egypt	140	125	175	225	200
El Salvador	10	5	15	10	5
Equatorial Guinea	*	—	5	—	*
Eritrea	*	*	10	15	10
Estonia	15	15	25	20	15
Ethiopia	65	110	145	170	105
Faroe Islands	*	*	*	*	5
Fiji	15	10	15	15	20
Finland	25	25	30	45	50
France	10,430	11,805	11,275	13,410	13,805
French Guiana	—	—	*	5	—
Gabon	—	*	10	5	*
Gambia	105	155	205	165	135
Georgia	110	140	110	75	105
Germany	895	700	625	635	585
Ghana	1,245	895	905	1,085	840
Gibraltar	5	*	*	5	10
Greece	305	240	275	360	310
Grenada	85	95	85	80	80
Guatemala	20	10	15	20	15
Guinea	30	25	30	25	20
Guinea-Bissau	10	5	5	5	5
Guyana	45	35	45	35	35
Haiti	*	*	—	—	—
Honduras	15	10	10	10	25
Hong Kong	470	445	530	500	395
Hungary	65	100	35	55	55
Iceland	5	10	10	10	15
India	1,255	2,160	2,930	3,750	4,480
Indonesia	25	35	80	55	45
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	435	550	590	595	460
Iraq	820	1,795	560	910	1,140
Ireland	550	1,040	1,035	820	970
Israel	255	305	350	380	290
Italy	1,265	1,385	1,305	1,505	1,140
Ivory Coast (Cote D'Ivoire)	25	50	65	65	60
Jamaica	1,885	1,510	1,455	1,515	1,020
Japan	150	180	145	125	160
Jordan	60	90	115	105	85
Kazakhstan	35	20	15	25	20
Kenya	195	250	330	370	350
Kosovo	1,515	895	545	280	210
Kuwait	25	15	20	60	70
Kyrgyzstan	35	20	20	15	15
Lao People's Democratic Republic	*	—	*	*	—
Latvia	45	60	90	55	70
Lebanon	90	75	130	105	75
Lesotho	5	*	10	10	5
Liberia	25	20	30	25	5
Libya (Arab Republic)	90	110	140	320	230
Lithuania	40	50	50	B5	80
Luxembourg	10	10	15	5	10
Macao	5	*	5	5	*
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of)	55	50	45	25	15
Madagascar	*	5	*	*	*
Malawi	505	270	265	315	425
Malaysia	1,520	1,705	1,550	1,695	1,230
Maldives	5	5	10	5	25
Mali	10	15	5	5	10
Malta	35	70	35	40	50
Marshall Islands	—	—	—	—	*
Mauritania	5	*	—	—	*
Mauritius	450	530	600	675	550
Mexico	195	220	265	315	245
Moldova, Republic of	135	145	270	100	95
Monaco	—	*	—	—	—
Mongolia	175	225	155	140	185
Montserrat	—	—	*	—	*
Morocco	50	60	70	105	85
Mozambique	10	*	10	5	15
Myanmar	10	20	15	35	20
Namibia	130	200	255	180	150
Nauru	—	—	—	—	*
Nepal	170	310	210	210	175
Netherlands	655	630	575	515	425
Netherlands Antilles	*	*	*	*	—
New Zealand	110	120	125	140	135
Nicaragua	5	5	25	10	15
Niger	10	5	5	5	5
Nigeria	3,210	3,040	2,980	3,185	2,335
Norfolk Island	—	—	*	—	*
Norway	100	95	90	105	105
Oman	20	30	25	5	30
Pakistan	1,915	2,920	2,985	2,865	2,690
Palestinian Authority	10	5	30	10	20
Panama	20	10	5	10	10
Papua New Guinea	—	—	5	*	*
Paraguay	40	65	40	40	35
Peru	30	50	30	30	20
Philippines	230	245	420	545	395
Poland	65	70	135	185	180
Portugal	375	390	430	405	335
Puerto Rico	*	*	*	*	5
Qatar	30	35	70	60	75

Removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom[1, 2], by country of destination, 2005-09[3, 5]

Number of departures

Country of destination[4]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[5]*	*2009[5]*
Romania	1,520	1,230	95	140	205
Russian Federation	250	300	280	215	165
Rwanda	10	20	15	20	10
Samoa	—	*	—	*	—
Sao Tome and Principe	*	*	—	5	5
Saudi Arabia	50	40	55	105	155
Senegal	25	20	45	50	35
Serbia and Montenegro	145	110	100	70	45
Seychelles	50	45	70	40	40
Sierra Leone	100	135	230	145	85
Singapore	145	170	205	250	140
Slovakia	65	35	30	50	35
Slovenia	10	20	10	10	5
Solomon Islands	*	—	*	—	—
Somalia	20	50	40	35	30
South Africa	1,965	1,835	1,795	1,565	970
South Korea	235	325	335	260	220
Spain	1,145	1,255	1,280	980	840
Sri Lanka	520	835	625	450	475
St Kitts and Nevis	15	10	20	15	15
St Vincent and the Grenadines	70	55	60	65	65
St. Lucia	130	130	160	155	120
Sudan	60	90	80	60	50
Suriname	*	*	*	5	*
Swaziland	10	5	20	25	20
Sweden	175	125	120	115	135
Switzerland	165	200	220	215	155
Syria Arab Republic	75	135	100	45	55
Tajikistan	*	*	*	*	5
Thailand	230	235	355	405	365
Togo	50	35	35	20	10
Tonga	5	5	5	10	5
Trinidad and Tobago	325	330	345	300	245
Tunisia	25	55	45	35	35
Turkey	965	1,930	1,595	1,210	735
Turkish controlled area of Cyprus	—	—	—	*	—
Turkmenistan	10	10	35	40	45
Turks and Caicos Islands	5	—	—	—	*
Tuvalu	—	—	—	—	*
Uganda	465	440	385	425	355
Ukraine	475	435	435	370	365
United Arab Emirates	110	135	225	200	365
United Rep of Tanzania	110	120	145	155	135
United States of America	1,545	1,875	2,000	2,480	2,710
United States Virgin Islands	—	*	—	*	—
Uruguay	5	10	5	5	10
Uzbekistan	40	40	55	75	100
Venezuela	160	155	165	115	80
Vietnam	75	175	380	575	595
Yemen	25	40	30	45	35
Zambia	70	80	110	120	105
Zimbabwe	515	455	425	395	355
Other	950	690	865	1,780	1,855
Total	58,215	63,865	63,365	67,980	64,750

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. Figures include dependants.

[3] Figures include dependants.

[4] Destination as recorded on source database.

[5] Provisional figures. Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

Passports: Forgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forged passports were seized by police in each year since 1997. [8828]

Damian Green: The information requested is not available. The Home Office does not collect information on seizures of forged passports and the Identity and Passport Service is not routinely informed of forged passports seized by the police. Such documents would not necessarily be UK passports but could be forgeries of a wide range of national passports.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested on suspicion of offences related to passport forgery in each year since 1997. [8830]

Damian Green: The information requested is not available. The Home Office does collect and publish statistics on arrests. Statistics are collected by the main offence group (e.g. fraud and forgery). However, the greater level of detail required to respond to this question is not collected.

Visas: Information and Communications Technology

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* interruptions in service and *(b)* major faults in her Department's IT systems used to administer visa applications in Pakistan have been recorded in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [8888]

Damian Green: There have been interruptions to the visa service in Pakistan for a number of reasons over the last five years.

2006

Non-IT related interruptions

We do not have any formal records of any interruptions to the service in Pakistan in 2006.

Major IT faults

There was one major IT fault recorded in 2006 (duration four hours).

2007

Non-IT related interruptions

The service in Pakistan was suspended for two to three days in early March 2007 to allow introduction of in-house biometric enrolment in the high commission in Islamabad and the deputy high commission in Karachi. The service was further suspended for a week in September 2007 to allow the introduction of the new commercial partner contract (which included the introduction of biometric enrolment by the Commercial Partner).

Major IT faults

There were 14 major IT faults recorded in 2007 (resulting in interruptions ranging between 10 minutes and 23 hours).

2008

Non-IT related interruptions

During the first nine months of 2008 there were a number of occasions when the visa application centres (VACs) in Pakistan had to close due to individual threats received against them. This did not result in a complete suspension of the service in Pakistan. The VACs in Pakistan closed pending a security review following the terrorist bombing of the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad on 20 September 2008. The reopening of the VACs were staggered between October 2008 (Lahore) and April (Mirpur).

Major IT faults

There were 20 major IT faults recorded in 2008 (resulting in interruptions ranging between 15 minutes and 29 hours).

2009

Non IT related interruptions

There were no non-IT related interruptions to the visa service in Pakistan in 2009.

Major-IT faults

There were 13 major IT faults recorded in 2009 (resulting in interruptions ranging between one hour and 28 hours).

2010

Non-IT related interruptions

There have been no non-IT related interruptions to the visa service in Pakistan to date in 2010.

Major IT faults

There have been six major IT faults recorded to date in 2010 (resulting in interruptions ranging between one hour and 38 hours).

None of the above IT faults would have caused any significant delay to applicants who had applied in good time.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 22 July 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10118]

Mr Paterson: The total amount spent is as follows:

(a) May 2010: £0

(b) June 2010: £204.63

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9820]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), like other Government Departments, is developing its plans to reduce running costs in the context of the 2010 Spending Review which will set departmental budgets for the financial years 2011-12 to 2014-15. The spending review will report in the autumn by which time the Department will have firmed up target cost savings over the next four financial years.

It should be noted that policing and justice functions, that were previously the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office, were devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 12 April and any historical cost comparisons will be difficult due to the significant restructuring.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9996]

Mr Paterson: Following devolution comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are no longer available.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7396]

Mr Paterson: No civil servants, special advisers or other individuals in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) are employed specifically to write speeches for Ministers.

JUSTICE

Bribery Act 2010

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he plans to publish guidance for businesses on the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010; [10570]

(2) how he plans to consult on implementing the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [10571]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice on 20 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 12WS.

Corruption: Public Service;

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 161W, on corruption: public service; if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each of the five meetings of the Foreign Bribery Strategy Board. [9747]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The agendas and minutes of each of the five meetings of the Foreign Bribery Strategy Board will be placed in the Library, where they do not meet the exemptions set out in the Freedom of Information Act under Section 31 (law enforcement) or Section 35 (formulation of government policy).

Deportation: Offenders

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals that all EU citizens in a prison in the UK be deported to their home country immediately. [9654]

Mr Blunt: Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union was adopted on 27 November 2008. The Framework Decision provides for the compulsory transfer of prisoners who are subject to a deportation order or who are being transferred to their country of nationality in which they normally reside. Member states have three years in which to implement the Framework Decision and to put in place the required legislative framework. The Framework Decision will enter into force in December 2011. The Government cannot unilaterally bring forward the date of implementation.

The deportation of foreign national prisoners at the end of their sentence is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary. However, foreign national prisoners cannot be deported before their earliest removal date under the Early Removal Scheme. Foreign national prisoners are referred to the UK Border Agency before the end of their custodial sentence so that they can be considered for deportation action.

High Cost Case Unit: Costs

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by the High Cost Case Unit on the 10 most costly case proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [9505]

Mr Djanogly: For very high cost criminal cases, the highest cost contracts for which the contract was concluded in 2009-10 were as follows. These are the total costs paid for the full life of the contract:

1. £3,369,043
2. £3,359,950
3. £3,005,629
4. £2,525,846
5. £2,124,175
6. £2,014,370
7. £1,754,390
8. £1,594,644
9. £1,517,507
10. £1,433,601

For very high cost civil cases, the highest cost cases for which the final bill was paid in 2009-10 were as follows. All these cases were successful and the opponents paid the costs specified in full.

1. £805,000
2. £752,500
3. £729,750
4. £717,000
5. £591,450
6. £550,000
7. £548,002
8. £503,500
9. £499,662
10. £495,833

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the High Cost Case Unit spent on *(a)* solicitors' costs, *(b)* counsels' fees and *(c)* disbursements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [9506]

Mr Djanogly: Legal aid expenditure on solicitors' costs, counsels' fees and disbursements under the very high cost case (VHCC) scheme in criminal cases during the 12 months between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010, was as follows:

	£ million
Solicitor	50.64
Counsel	29.87
Disbursement	[1]15.09
Total Cost	95.60

[1] Includes payments made to advocates who were not part of the VHCC panel.

Civil VHCC costs are not recorded in a similar way and corresponding figures are therefore not readily available.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by the High Cost Case Unit on case proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [9504]

Mr Djanogly: The net cash spend authorised for payment for very high cost cases in financial year 2009-10 was:

	£ million
Civil[1]	78.6
Criminal[2]	95.6

[1] These are cases where the costs are likely to exceed £25,000 and are funded since 2000 under the Access to Justice Act.

[2] These are cases where they trial length is expected to be 41 days or more, or cases with expected trial length of 25-40 days with complexity factors that justified the application of VHCC controls.

Legal Services Commission: Immigration

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of the Legal Services Commission offices in the South East given immigration new matter starts from October 2010 are in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Windsor and Maidenhead; [10575]

(2) how many of the Legal Services Commission *(a)* immigration new matter starts and *(b)* asylum new matter starts awarded in the South East have been given to providers based in (i) Slough, (ii) Reading and (iii) Windsor and Maidenhead. [10576]

Mr Djanogly: The tender process for Immigration Services is not yet complete and we therefore cannot provide details of the organisations that have been successful. The tender will conclude once all appeals have been resolved which we anticipate will be in mid September 2010.

Magistrates Courts

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* court rooms and *(b)* court rooms in use there are in (i) Denbigh magistrates court and (ii) Rhyl county court. [9490]

Mr Djanogly: There is one court room at Denbigh magistrates court which sits one day per week. There are two court rooms at Rhyl county court which are used five days per week.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the court utilisation rate was for *(a)* Denbigh magistrates court and *(b)* Rhyl county court in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the utilisation rate was for each courtroom in each such case. [9491]

Mr Djanogly: Utilisation is only recorded in magistrates courts and by court, not by courtroom. The utilisation rate for Denbigh magistrates court in 2009-10 was 25.6%. The court was used 317 out of 1,239 available hours.

There were 415 sitting days in Rhyl in 2009-10. Each of the two courtrooms could have been used for up to 248 sitting days each (496 total). Therefore there were sittings at Rhyl in 83.7% of the days that were possible.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what HM Courts Service's most recent estimate is of the likely case load of *(a)* Denbigh magistrates court and *(b)* Rhyl county court in each of the next three years. [9492]

Mr Djanogly: No estimate has been made of the future case load of each of these courts in the next three years. Forecasting is not carried out at individual court level.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the Court Users Survey in respect of *(a)* Denbigh magistrates court and *(b)* Rhyl county court. [9495]

Mr Djanogly: Statistics from the HM Courts Service User Survey are not available at the level of individual courts due to small sample sizes. In 2008-09 (the latest year for which user survey statistics have been published), 67% of users interviewed for the survey at court locations in North Wales said that they were 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied with their court experience, 17% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, while 15% said that they were 'very' or 'fairly' dissatisfied. The corresponding figures for court users interviewed across the whole of England and Wales were 83%, 9% and 8% respectively. A report of the results for 2009-10 is due to be published on the Ministry of Justice website in October 2010 at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/hmcsusersurvey.htm

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the future caseload of Llwynypia magistrates court. [9560]

Mr Djanogly: No estimate has been made of the future case load of Llwynypia magistrates court. Forecasting is not carried out at individual court level.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were heard in *(a)* Denbigh magistrates court and *(b)* Rhyl county court in each of the last three financial years. [9493]

Mr Djanogly: The number of completed proceedings in Denbigh and Prestatyn magistrates court and completed civil (non-family) court proceedings in Rhyl county court, from 2007-08 to 2009-10, are given in Table 1. Centrally collected information does not allow the separate identification of those completed at Denbigh magistrates court specifically.

Tables 2 and 3 show the number of orders made in relation to family cases at Rhyl county court in these years.

Table 1: Completed court proceedings in Denbigh and Prestatyn magistrates court and Rhyl county court 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Total number of completed court proceedings in Denbigh and Prestatyn magistrates court	*Total number of civil proceedings completed in Rhyl county court*
2007-08	6,200	619
2008-09	6,200	634
2009-10 (provisional)	6,500	478

Notes:

1. Total number of completed cases in Denbigh and Prestatyn magistrates court includes all criminal proceedings, adult breach proceedings, and non-criminal proceedings (civil and family applications and means enquiries, representation orders and special jurisdiction).

2. Total number of civil proceedings completed in Rhyl county court includes all cases disposed of by a trial or small claim hearing, or which saw an order for possession of property made at a hearing

3. Magistrates court data have been given to the nearest hundred.

Source:

Completed Proceedings, HM Courts Service Performance Database ('OPT'), HM Courts Service CaseMan system and Possession Claim On-Line system

Table 2 Orders made relating to private and public law family cases in Rhyl county court 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Total number of children involved in public and private law family proceedings completed in Rhyl county court
2007-08	417
2008-09	480
2009-10	n/a

Notes:

1. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.

2. Public law refers to child protection cases where a local authority is stepping in to protect a child from harm. Private law refers to cases where there is a dispute between two or more private individuals regarding a child. For example, over where he/she is to live or whether someone should have contact with him/her. Both are cases brought under the Children Act 1989.

(3) Statistics for 2009-10 are not yet available; 2009 data are due to be published in September 2010.

Source:

HM Courts Service FamilyMan system

Table 3 Completed family court proceedings in Rhyl county court 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Total number of family proceedings completed in Rhyl county court and High Court
2007-08	692
2008-09	666
2009-10 (provisional)	400

Notes:

1. Figures include orders made in the District Registry of the High Court in Rhyl, and exclude public and private law cases.

2. Figures include cases related to domestic violence injunctions, dissolution and nullity of marriage and ancillary relief.

3. One case may include more than one type of ancillary relief order.

Source:

HM Courts Service FamilyMan system

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were disposed of in chambers in *(a)* Denbigh magistrates court and *(b)* Rhyl county court in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [9494]

Mr Djanogly: Cases are not disposed of in chambers in the magistrates courts. The number of cases disposed of in chambers in Rhyl county court is not held centrally; where this information is recorded on case files held by the courts it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases have been transferred to other courts from *(a)* Rhyl county court and *(b)* Denbigh magistrates court in each of the last three years. [9497]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the number of civil and family case transfers from Rhyl county court to another court in each of the last three years:

Family and civil cases transfers from Rhyl county court

Financial year	*Number*
2007-08	270
2008-09	237
2009-10	256

Notes:

1. The data reflect the number of case transfers where a case was transferred from Rhyl county court to another court. This data do not equal the number of individual cases transferred as some cases may be transferred more than once.

2. The number of family transfer events include those made in the District Registry in the High Court in Rhyl. This is because it is not possible distinguish between county and High court transfers for all types of family.

Source:

HMCS FamilyMan system and HMCS Manual returns obtained through One Performance Truth Database.

The number of cases transferred from Denbigh magistrates court to other magistrates courts is not held centrally as it is not recorded by court staff electronically as part of their routine daily administrative duties. The only means to collect this data would be the inspection of each individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were heard in the magistrates court in Llwynypia in each of the last five years. [9558]

Mr Djanogly: The number of completed magistrates court proceedings in Llwynypia and Pontypridd magistrates courts, from 2007-08 to 2009-10, are given in the table. Centrally collected information does not allow the separate identification of those completed at Llwynypia specifically. These statistics are not available prior to 2007-08 on a comparable basis.

Completed proceedings in Llwynypia and Pontypridd magistrates courts, 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Total number of completed criminal proceedings (including breaches)	*Total number of completed non-criminal proceedings*	*Total number of completed court proceedings*
2007-08	8,500	4,000	12,400
2008-09	7,100	4,100	11,200
2009-10[1]	6,800	3,200	10,000

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. Criminal proceedings include indictable/triable-either-way, adult breach proceedings, adult summary motoring and non-motoring proceedings, and youth proceedings.

2. Non-criminal proceedings include civil and family applications and means inquiries, representation orders and special jurisdiction.

3. All figures are given to the nearest hundred, and therefore the cases may not sum to the total as a result.

4. Prior to April 2007, data were collected from different administrative systems and are not directly comparable with those given in the table. For this reason, the table shows the figures from 2007 only.

Source:

Completed Proceedings, HM Courts Service Performance Database ('OPT').

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many witnesses and defendants failed to attend court at *(a)* the Llwynypia magistrates court, *(b)* the county court in Pontypridd, *(c)* the magistrates court in Aberdare and *(d)* the magistrates court in Pontypridd in each of the last five years. [9562]

Mr Djanogly: Information about the number of witnesses and defendants failing to attend the county court in Pontypridd and the magistrates courts is not held centrally, as it is not recorded by court staff electronically as part of their routine daily administrative duties.

Furthermore, the information collected does not separately identify cases completed at Llwynypia magistrates court is collected from those at Pontypridd magistrates court.

Information on the number of criminal trials at Llwynypia and Pontypridd magistrates courts and Aberdare magistrates court which were either 'ineffective' (does not commence on due date and is re-listed) or 'cracked' (did not commence on the due date and was not listed) due to non-attendance for defendants and witnesses, from 2007-08 to 2009-10, is given in the table as follows. Statistics are not available prior to 2007-08 at a court level.

Information about the number of witnesses and defendants failing to attend the county court in Pontypridd is not held centrally.

Non-attendance of defendants and witnesses in criminal trials recorded in the magistrates courts, April 2007-09

Magistrates courts	*Number of trials where the defendant is absent*[3]	*Percentage of the cases where the defendant is absent*	*Number of trials where the witness is absent*[1]	*Percentage of the cases where the witness is absent*	*Total number of trials*
Aberdare					
2007-08	6	3	4	2	238
2008-09	2	1	6	3	198
2009-10	4	2	4	2	191
Pontypridd[2]					
2007-08	6	1	21	4	579
2008-09	14	3	15	3	484
2009-10	13	3	24	5	504

[1] Witnesses are defined as both professional, police and other witnesses for both the defence and prosecution.

[2] Prior to April 2007, data were collected from different administrative systems and are not directly comparable with those given in the table. For this reason, the table shows the figures from 2007-08 to 2009-10 only.

[3] The figures correspond to trials only and exclude all non-attendance when trials did not occur.

Source:

Trials, HM courts service Performance Database (OPT).

Magistrates Courts: Ammanford

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answers of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 615W, on magistrates courts: Ammanford, 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 582W, on Ammanford magistrates court and 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 636W, on Ammanford magistrates court, whether the operating costs for 2009-10 are inclusive of the refurbishment and maintenance costs. [9705]

Mr Djanogly: The operating costs are inclusive of the refurbishment and maintenance costs.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what staff-related costs will be incurred by the closure of *(a)* Denbigh magistrates court and *(b)* Rhyl county court in respect of (i) additional fares, (ii) additional travelling time and (iii) voluntary redundancy. [9498]

Mr Djanogly: The proposals on the court estate are currently out to public consultation and until responses to the consultation have been considered in full, no decision on court closures will be taken. As it is not known whether and which courts will close, no assessment has been made of the effect on staffing numbers or costs. Implementation planning will only occur once decisions have been taken and staff redeployment will form part of that planning. My Department will continue to discuss the proposals with staff and with the trade unions.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the cost of the maintenance backlog was included in his estimate of the likely level of savings to the public purse of the closure of *(a)* Denbigh magistrates court and *(b)* Rhyl county court; and whether funding for the maintenance backlog has been allocated. [9513]

Mr Djanogly: As indicted in the consultation papers, if these courts were to close it would remove the need for HMCS investment in backlog maintenance. Maintenance backlog figures are therefore separate from estimates of likely savings. Funding for maintenance backlogs has not been allocated.

Closure of all 157 courts covered in the consultation would achieve running cost savings of around £15.3 million per year. These courts also have backlog maintenance of around £21.5 million, costs that can be avoided if the closures go ahead.

Magistrates Courts: Manpower

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent staff are employed at Llwynypia magistrates court. [9559]

Mr Djanogly: There are no staff permanently located at Llwynypia magistrates court. Staff based at Pontypridd magistrates court travel to Llwynypia for hearings.

Magistrates Courts: Repairs and Maintenance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what maintenance costs were incurred by his Department in respect of *(a)* Denbigh magistrates court and *(b)* Rhyl county court in each of the last three years. [9496]

Mr Djanogly: The maintenance costs in respect of Denbigh magistrates court and Rhyl county court in each of the last three years were:

	£
Denbigh magistrates court	
2007-08	21,594.78
2008-09	43,642.75
2009-10	24,855.26
Rhyl county court	
2007-08	39,262.60
2008-09	23,318.17
2009-10	18,045.37

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maintenance costs of the magistrates court in Llwynypia were in each of the last five years. [9561]

Mr Djanogly: The maintenance costs at Llwynypia magistrates court for each of the last five years were:

	£
2005-06	29,153.14
2006-07	30,120.10
2007-08	40,234.49
2008-09	41,810.60
2009-10	49,882.39

Magistrates Courts: Unpaid Fines

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of court fines in each *(a)* region, *(b)* county and *(c)* magistrates court area levied in each of the last three years were unpaid and outstanding at the end of each such year. [9630]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS systems do not currently identify how many fines imposed within a year are paid within the same period, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of all fine accounts.

However HMCS's systems can identify the amounts imposed within the last three years for all HMCS regions and Local Criminal Justice Board areas. These data together with the total amount outstanding at the end of each year are set out in the following table. The outstanding balance has risen through the application of a strict policy that only allows fines to be written off in certain circumstances. The outstanding balance includes fines imposed a number of years ago during the period when fines could not be cancelled (2004-06) and fines which are being paid by instalments.

Total amount imposed[1]

£

Area/Region	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
London	63,881,319	72,107,785	81,628,882
Total London Region	63,881319	72,107,785	81,628,882
Derbyshire	6,128,288	5,840,197	4,844,153
Leicestershire	5,691,250	5,877,021	6,030,574
Lincolnshire	4,191,695	5,096,991	4,823,958
Northamptonshire	4,430,561	4,330,940	4,721,076
Nottinghamshire	6,838,997	6,654,544	6,382,228
Staffordshire	8,766,857	8,698,559	8,136,476
Warwickshire	2,875,248	2,786,476	3,330,822
West Mercia	8,099,918	9,447,891	8,422,160
West Midlands	24,097,581	21,768,797	21,852,536
Total Midlands Region	71,120336	70,501,416	68,553,559
Cleveland	3,780,148	3,615,467	3,868,689
Durham	3,217,879	3,542,418	3,192,452
Humberside	6,201,707	6,910,237	6,756,725
North Yorkshire	4,323,495	4,371,260	4,219,649
Northumbria	9,720,095	10,463,694	10,568,454
South Yorkshire	7,406,408	9,048,523	9,039,246
West Yorkshire	15,428,776	14,881,498	16,635,550
Total North East Region	50,078,508	52,833,097	54,280,765
Cheshire	7,933,967	7,334,673	7,502,097
Cumbria	3,877,892	4,100,879	3,817,499
Greater Manchester	18,632,285	19,635,012	19,267,431
Lancashire	10,906,582	12,392,009	11,104,491
Merseyside	9,769,352	12,106,880	12,026,583
Total North West Region	51,120,079	55,569,453	53,718,100
Bedfordshire	3,716,219	4,041,563	4,512,392
Cambridgeshire	5,257,762	4,563,054	4,968,180
Essex	11,017,192	11,525,831	12,156,939
Hertfordshire	8,364,744	8,285,229	9,382,421
Kent	11,484,589	12,546,283	11,461,258
Norfolk	4,791,859	5,708,267	4,568,442
Suffolk	4,227,603	6,053,635	5,555,237
Surrey	6,366,071	6,139,960	6,189,029
Sussex	8,562,023	8,091,108	10,433,954
Thames Valley	12,856,332	13,820,088	14,882,513
Total South East Region	76,644,394	80,775,018	83,224,865
Avon and Somerset	10,746,004	10,046,264	9,586,385
Devon and Cornwall	9,956,166	7,759,109	7,770,868
Dorset	3,759,611	4,627,389	4,888,527
Gloucestershire	2,772,484	2,517,262	2,904,006
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	8,564,753	9,951,872	11,191,949
Wiltshire	4,358,317	5,356,348	4,982,425
Total South West Region	40,157,335	40,258,244	41,324,159
Dyfed Powys	3,055,546	3,538,439	3,270,439
Gwent	4,523,699	3,985,405	4,52[illegible],698
North Wales	4,483,844	4,813,034	5,900,141
South Wales	11,504,822	9,364,748	9,355,058
Total Wales	23,562,911	21,701,626	23,054,337
Total amount outstanding:			
London	117,318,452	126,959,900	142,475,774
Total London Region	117,318,452	126,959,900	142,475,774
Derbyshire	7,487,182	7,910,599	7,728,8[illegible]
Leicestershire	5,475,952	4,807,071	5,881,157
Lincolnshire	5,757,706	6,309,425	5,957,325
Northamptonshire	5,113,088	5,544,837	5,576,232
Nottinghamshire	4,501,937	4,855,449	5,539,840
Staffordshire	11,728,465	11,509,685	4,728,312
Warwickshire	3,221,730	3,006,384	3,279,018
West Mercia	9,313,961	10,709,950	12,060,610
West Midlands	39,926,402	41,341,778	44,621,598
Total Midlands Region	92,523,423	95,995,178	101,524,907
Cleveland	5,886,347	5,606,269	5,174,134
Durham	3,748,457	3,379,032	3,595,330
Humberside	9,561,189	10,257,748	10,076,884
North Yorkshire	3,214,673	3,797,705	4,117,398
Northumbria	11,460,962	13,835,201	14,761,027
South Yorkshire	7,207,038	8,173,418	9,270,998
West Yorkshire	12,890,971	8,085,565	3,279,018
Total North East Region	52,969,638	59,901,794	64,063,145
Cheshire	11,207,571	11,809,900	11,485,719
Cumbria	3,225,093	3,368,566	3,384,180
Greater Manchester	27,384,881	30,659,063	33,159,738
Lancashire	12,236,463	13,870,361	13,111,327
Merseyside	24,576,991	27,054,637	28,957,510
Total North West Region	78,630,999	86,762,529	90,098,475
Bedfordshire	2,929,160	3,488,383	3,818,893
Cambridgeshire	5,471,185	4,582,639	4,807,179
Essex	10,068,331	12,635,361	12,852,199
Hertfordshire	10,624,124	11,976,897	13,565,118
Kent	17,645,077	19,402,260	20,522,744
Norfolk	4,911,783	5,258,805	5,165,121
Suffolk	2,648,849	4,224,885	4,728,312
Surrey	5,273,909	5,696,496	6,125,559
Sussex	12,726,870	13,939,448	15,390,751
Thames Valley	22,465,362	22,946,204	24,507,506
Total South East Region	94,764,649	104,151,377	111,483,442
Avon and Somerset	9,379,982	11,184,221	11,885,521
Devon and Cornwall	2,929,160	6,407,447	7,118,202
Dorset	4,878,557	5,679,185	6,306,732
Gloucestershire	3,609,646	3,595,701	3,651,902
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	10,933,502	12,127,133	15,118,051
Wiltshire	3,711,278	5,085,565	5,741,376
Total South West Region	38,869,240	44,079,253	49,821,783
Dyfed Powys	3,324,554	3,955,288	4,325,342
Gwent	5,857,625	5,903,094	5,617,483
North Wales	6,367,896	7,303,005	8,598,513
South Wales	10,004,092	9,879,206	10,466,440
Total Wales	25,554,167	29,007,777	29,007,777

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[1] Total amount imposed includes financial impositions made in the magistrates courts which include fines, compensation, costs and victims surcharge along with fines ordered in the crown court and unpaid fixed penalty notices and public notices for disorder which are transferred to HMCS for collection as a fine.

Magistrates Courts: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases originally listed for hearing at Pwllheli magistrates court were transferred for hearing before Caernarfon magistrates court in each year from 2006; [10377]

(2) how many cases were transferred for hearing from Llangefni magistrates court to Holyhead magistrates court in each year from 2006 to 2009; [10461]

(3) how many cases were dealt with by district judges in the counties of Gwynedd and Ynys Môn in each year from 2006 to 2009. [10468]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information electronically on cases that are transferred between courts nor on the amount of cases dealt with by district judges in the magistrates courts.

The information is not held centrally, as it is not recorded by court staff electronically as part of their routine daily administrative duties. It may be that the information is held within individual case files but the inspection of these could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running costs of Pwllheli magistrates court were in each year from 2006 to 2009. [10378]

Mr Djanogly: The running costs for Pwllheli magistrates court from 2005-06 to 2009-10 were as follows:

	£
2005-06	20,710
2006-07	43,885
2007-08	34,648
2008-09	56,384
2009-10	45,590

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what capital expenditure his Department incurred in maintenance of the venue for Pwllheli magistrates court in each year from 2006 to 2009; and if he will make a statement. [10379]

Mr Djanogly: The capital costs for Pwllheli magistrates court were zero for each of these years. The resource maintenance figures for these years, which form part of the overall running costs, are provided in the following table.

	£
2005-06	7,725
2006-07	29,181
2007-08	13,292
2008-09	19,536
2009-10	17,913

Prisons: Population

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the level of *(a)* numeracy and *(b)* literacy in the prison population in England and Wales. [9581]

Mr Blunt: Neither the National Offender Management Services (NOMS) nor the Skills Funding Agency routinely collect this information.

However the Skills Funding Agency are able to provide information on the number of literacy and numeracy-related learning aims prisoners were enrolled upon in the last full academic year for which figures are available (August 2008 to July 2009) as recorded on Individualised Learner Records In the 2008-09 academic year prisoners were enrolled upon a total of 243,100 learning aims, with 39,888 of those aims in a literacy-related subject (16%) and 34,804 aims in numeracy-related subjects (14%).

Education in Welsh prisons is delivered through a different model. The number of prisoners in Welsh public sector prisons who started a basic skills course and achieved an accreditation during 2009-10 was 39%.

Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on Wales of his Department's planned spending reductions. [8990]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government set out in its document 'Spending Review Framework' that it will:

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions." (2.4, page 7)

Further information will be available at the spending review.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9259]

John Penrose: This Department does not hold data on payments to sub-contractors by our first tier suppliers.

Olympic Delivery Authority

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much the Olympic Delivery Authority has spent on *(a)* polling and *(b)* focus groups in each of the last three years. [8677]

Hugh Robertson: Spending by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) on polling and focus groups has been mainly on research to support the delivery of a successful transport operation for the 2012 games. The amount spent during the past three financial years is in the table:

	Amount (£)
2007-08	118,766.94
2008-09	167,328.69
2009-10	62,942.50

The proportions carried out by *(a)* polling and *(b)* focus groups are not recorded.

Radio Frequencies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the future use of the analogue spectrum after digital switchover. [10772]

Mr Vaizey: Around a quarter of all radio listening is now to digital, so a future transition to digital radio continues to gain impetus. However, we believe that FM analogue broadcasting will continue for the foreseeable future and for at least as long as it is needed as a platform for local radio.

It would not be in anyone's interest to force stations on to DAB or to 'switch off' FM at a time when it would leave local and community stations without an appropriate broadcast platform. Radio broadcasting on FM will therefore continue for as long as it is needed and viable.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which Commonwealth organisations his Department provides grant funding; and how much it has provided to each in each of the last 10 years. [10634]

Mr Duncan: Details of funding from the Department for International Development (DFID) to Commonwealth programmes since 2002 are provided in the following table. The requested information cannot be provided for previous years without incurring disproportionate cost.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation	5,963	5,578	7,309	3,978	7,329	11,003	8,475	8,750	8,750
The Commonwealth Youth Programme	696	726	719	828	726	1,299	906	844	850
The Commonwealth Foundation	427	252	259	265	272	253	260	260	260
The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan	3,684	11,015	16,695	12,610	14,430	14,400	17,735	17,985	17,500
The Commonwealth of Learning	1,000	1,000	769	1,231	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
The Commonwealth Local Government Forum	—	[1]235	[1]180	[1]523	[1]558	[1]504	540	654	943
The Commonwealth Media Development Fund	193	165	200	200	200	220	—	—	—

[1] These amounts are spend in the financial years 2002-3, 2003-4, 2004-5, 2005-6 and 2006-7

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9665]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) ensures guidance is available to staff on our intranet pages regarding the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to correspondence. When any Minister joins DFID, this guidance is updated to reflect the new Minister's preferred writing style. This requires staff to use plain English, avoid acronyms and use a clear structure.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7967]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) paid the Government Car Service £45,737.59, between 12 May and 12 June 2010.

DFID has given notice to GCS that we are terminating our contracts for allocated ministerial cars and drivers for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and myself, and intend to use the new government car pool for ministerial travel purposes as soon as this is in place.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations have received funding from his Department as part of the aid mission following the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010. [9741]

Mr Duncan: Funding provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) to non-governmental organisations and multilateral organisations to assist the relief operation in Haiti are provided as follows:

	Amount (£)
Non governmental organisation	
Merlin	399,000
Agency for Technical Co-operation and Development (ACTED)	400,000
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	1,000,000
Handicap International	500,000
Oxfam	1,000,000
Multilateral organisation	
Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	1,000,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	2,000,000
Pan-American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO)	300,000
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)	1,120,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	1,220,000

	Amount (£)
International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (Through UK Stabilisation Unit)	465,000

Overseas Aid

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken to ensure that overseas aid is used for its intended purposes. [9524]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has established a strong set of controls to manage the risk of misuse of funds. We protect our funds in three ways: by ensuring that the funds were paid to the intended recipient, that the funds have been used for the purposes agreed, and that the use of the funds has been audited.

The UK Government are introducing a new 'Aid Transparency Guarantee', which will make our aid fully transparent to citizens in both the UK and recipient countries. Aid transparency is critical to improving aid effectiveness and value for money, and reduces waste, fraud and corruption.

The Secretary of State has also taken the first steps towards creating a new independent aid watchdog to review the effectiveness of DFID programmes. In addition we will modify the way that programmes are designed so that gathering rigorous evidence is built in from the day they start.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [9688]

Mr Duncan: The humanitarian situation in Gaza is stable but fragile, with 75% of Gazans dependent on food aid. We have recently contributed £19 million to the 2010 general budget of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides basic services to Palestinian refugees across the region. UNRWA spends about 30% of its budget in Gaza, providing education, health care, social services and food aid to the 1 million Gazans who are registered refugees.

The UK also funds a UN team who co-ordinate and facilitate the movement of aid and other necessary items into Gaza.

We are looking at what further steps we can take in the light of the recent announcement by Israel that it will reduce access restrictions and allow a larger range and volume of aid and goods into Gaza.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8290]

Gregory Barker: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Offices

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6562]

Gregory Barker: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9604]

Gregory Barker: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough (Mr Blunkett) on 19 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 72W, which sets out how DECC has made £85 million in savings as part of the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May of wider public expenditure reductions in 2010-11.

Natural Gas: Utilities

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to increase the number of gas energy suppliers. [9682]

Charles Hendry: Great Britain has a strong, well-functioning competitive energy market with a diverse range licensed gas suppliers. Ofgem has found that liquidity in the gas supply market compares well with liquidity in other markets, suggesting a healthy level of competition and freedom for new energy suppliers to enter the market. Were barriers to entry for new gas suppliers to be identified, Government and Ofgem would take action to address these issues as appropriate. With regard to the liquid petroleum gas (LPG) market, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is currently reviewing the effect of the Competition Commission Orders for the domestic bulk LPG market.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from what budget payment for costs of dealing with nuclear waste exceeding *(a)* the fixed unit price for waste disposal and *(b)* the contingency cost budgets for such disposal is drawn. [10998]

Charles Hendry: The Government's policy is that the price paid by operators of new nuclear power stations for the disposal of their higher activity radioactive wastes should be sufficient to meet their full share of waste disposal costs. The precise details of this scheme are still under consideration.

Renewable Energy

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to require energy companies to display on customers' bills the proportion of the total cost used to subsidise renewable energy generation. [9325]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to improving the transparency of energy bills and improving information to consumers to help them understand and control their energy costs and are currently considering the extent of the information that should be included.

Ofgem estimate environmental and social programmes and subsidies, including but not limited to support for renewables, account for 8% of the average domestic electricity bill and 3% of the average domestic gas bill. Costs of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, the Community Energy Savings Programme, and the Renewables Obligation are included, however, this does not take into account the impact on an average bill of the energy efficiency savings from these policies.

There are currently no requirements for energy suppliers to put information on subsidies on energy bills. Ofgem have produced readily available factsheets explaining energy bills which give a breakdown of the costs that make up consumer bills. Some suppliers have chosen to include example cost break downs on bills to improve transparency and we would strongly encourage this.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the role of biomass combustion through gasification in the future renewables mix in the UK. [10459]

Charles Hendry: Government recognise that gasification is an important and versatile technology which can be used to convert biomass or bio based waste into a range of energy outputs. Gasification is supported through the renewables obligation, with electricity produced through innovative advanced gasification processes qualifying for two renewable obligation certificates.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will commission a review of the comparative efficiency of *(a)* biomass gasification and *(b)* anaerobic digestion. [10502]

Charles Hendry: Studies on biomass energy conversion efficiencies already exist, as commissioned by the National Non-Food Crops Centre (NNFCC), which provides advice to Government on bio energy and energy from waste technologies. Details are available on the NNFCC website at

www.nnfcc.co.uk

and the following reports cover biomass gasification:

The potential for bio synthetic gas production in the UK (Reference NNFCC 10—008);

Analysis of greenhouse gas emissions for thermochemical bio synthetic gas production in the UK (Reference NNFCC 10—009);

Life Cycle and Techno—Economic assessment of the Northeast biomass to liquids project (Reference NNFCC 08—016).

NNFCC has also commissioned a study on the anaerobic digestion supply chain which will cover efficiency, and this is due for publication shortly. Additional evidence is also being collected through a DECC/DEFRA led project on energy from waste.

The efficiency of technologies using bioresources will depend on a range of factors, including the composition of biomass or waste feedstock and the energy output, and so are not directly comparable.

Sellafield

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on the proposal to provide a new manufacturing line at the Sellafield MOX plant; and if he will make a statement. [10260]

Charles Hendry: The running of the Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP) is an operational matter for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (a non-departmental public body of DECC, responsible for tackling the nuclear legacy) and its contractor, Sellafield Ltd. As part of an agreement between the NDA and 10 Japanese Utilities, on a framework for manufacturing Japanese fuel in SMP, a programme of engineering improvements is being implemented to enhance the plant's performance. Part of this programme will be the installation of a new rod line.

Wind Power: Yorkshire and the Humber

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many onshore wind turbines have been built in each constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [8348]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* The Government do not hold information on renewable energy schemes by parliamentary constituency. The number of onshore wind turbines, not including those under 10kW, built in each district in Yorkshire and Humber in each of the last five years is as follows:

District	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Calderdale	2	—	—	—	—
City of Leeds	—	—	—	1	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	—	—	1	3	12
Harrogate	—	—	1	8	—
Kirklees	1	2	—	—	2
North Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	8
Rotherham	—	—	—	—	2

Source:
AEA technology

The Government are committed to the development of wind energy in the UK. As an island nation we have outstanding wind resources and wind energy is an indigenous source of energy which is needed to meet our renewable energy and climate change goals. The wind industry can be a key player in creating the investment, exports and jobs we need to bring back economic prosperity, and the UK is already a world leader in offshore wind.

We also want communities and individuals to benefit from the increase in renewable energy, including wind power, and to own a stake in our collective low carbon future. This is why we committed in the coalition programme for government to encouraging more community-owned renewable energy and allowing communities that host renewable energy projects to keep the additional business rates they generate.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications for the role of UK personnel in the current counter-insurgency campaign in Afghanistan of reports that the Government will seek to begin the withdrawal of such personnel from Afghanistan by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [8197]

Dr Fox: At the London conference on 28 January 2010 the international community agreed with the Afghan Government that we would aim to build up the Afghan security forces to the point where they are ready to take on security responsibility across Afghanistan within five years. This objective was reconfirmed at the G8 meeting in June.

We would expect UK personnel to move increasingly to a supporting role as the Afghan security forces gradually assume more responsibility for the security of their country. The Prime Minister has said that there will not be British troops in Afghanistan in five years time. There could be some troops there in a training role as part of a wider diplomatic relationship.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the 1998 Strategic Defence Review identified aircraft carriers as central to the future configuration of UK armed forces. [9120]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the arguments in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review White Paper and supporting essays, which can be found at:

www.mod.uk/defenceinternet/aboutdefence/corporatepublications/policystrategyandplanning/SDR/strategicdefencereview.htm

Armed Forces: Child Trust Fund

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the effect on service personnel families who have received payments from the Child Trust Fund of the June 2010 Budget. [10566]

Mr Robathan: The effect of the changes of the June 2010 Budget on families of service personnel who have received payments from the Child Trust Fund is no different to that of civilian society.

As the pay rate for a newly qualified soldier is above the threshold for the additional payments for families on lower incomes, it is anticipated the changes will have a very limited effect across the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to improve the standard of service family accommodation in Kingston. [10241]

Mr Robathan: The Government will look at whether there is scope to refurbish the armed forces' accommodation in Kingston, and elsewhere, from efficiencies within the Ministry of Defence.

Armed Forces: Reserve Forces

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial support his Department provides to small and medium-sized businesses who allow reservists time off to train and engage in active service. [9750]

Nick Harvey: The Reserve Forces Act 1996 (RFA 96) provides the legal framework within which the reserves are formed and called out. It also provides a number of safeguards for the reservist and his/her employer. Under RFA 96, employers, no matter what size the business is, may claim financial assistance in accordance with SI 859 because a member of their staff has been mobilised. Examples of assistance might be agency and advertising costs, and/or the costs of re-training the reservist on his/her return to work.

When a reservist undertakes training, businesses do not receive financial support. Any leave required by a reservist to attend training should be an agreement made between the employee and their employers. Employers are not obligated to give a reservist additional leave for training, either paid or unpaid. However, many employers choose to do so, because they realise that such training gives them valuable skills that can be transferred directly to the work place. Recent research for the Ministry of Defence and endorsed by the Chartered Management Institute, has calculated that the work experience value to employers gained by reservists deployed on operations is £18,432.

Astute Class Submarines

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich East (Mr. Watson) of 15 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 347W, on Astute-class submarines, what progress has been made in re-baselining the drumbeat production level of the Astute-class submarines; and if he will make a statement; [9779]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the future drumbeat level of production of Astute-class submarines; what he expects the *(a)* launch and *(b)* in-service dates to be of the remaining submarines; and if he will make a statement. [9780]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* All projects are being considered as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, and the outcome of this will be announced later this year.

The re-baselining work, which includes detailed joint planning and cost analysis by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and BAE Systems Submarine Solutions, the prime contractor for the Astute Submarine Programme, is ongoing. The programme production timetable, including expected launch and in-service dates for the Astute class of submarines, can only be confirmed once this work has been completed, and MOD and HM Treasury re-approval has been obtained.

Defence Fire and Rescue Service

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were employed *(a)* by Defence Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS), *(b)* as DFRS Locally Employed Civilians, *(c)* as Royal Navy Aircraft Handlers, *(d)* by the Royal Air Force Fire Service, *(e)* as contractor agency staff to provide fire protection services and *(f)* as associated support staff in each of the last 10 years. [9753]

Mr Robathan: Figures detailing the numbers of people employed in fire protection over the last 10 years are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table provides the most recent figures available.

Service	*[1]Numbers*
DFRS Employees	1,050
DFRS Locally Employed Civilians[2]	280
Royal Navy Aircraft Handlers[3]	120
Royal Air Force	600
Contracted agency staff	350
Associated support staff	50

[1] Figures provided as at June 2010. All figures have been rounded to 10

[2] Locally employed civilians are working in Cyprus, Gibraltar and Germany

[3] This branch of the RN undertakes several functions one of which is fire protection

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which private contractors provide fire protection services at his Department's *(a)* nuclear storage facilities, *(b)* ammunition storage facilities and *(c)* married quarters accommodation; [9756]

(2) which contractors provide fire protection services for his Department; and what the monetary value of the contract is in each case. [9798]

Mr Robathan: The following private contractors provide fire protection services for the Ministry of Defence (MOD):

Atomic Weapons Establishment Management Limited (AWE ML) is responsible for running the UK's nuclear storage facilities including fire protection services. AWE ML is a consortium comprising Serco, Jacobs and Lockheed Martin.

For ammunition storage facilities QinetiQ is responsible for running the ammunition trials and disposal facility at Shoeburyness ranges, and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), a trading fund of MOD, runs the explosives site at Fort Halstead. QinetiQ provides fire protection services either using their own manpower or through sub-contractors. DSTL sub-contracts fire protection to Serco.

Married quarters estates lie within the responsibility of local authority fire and rescue services. However contracted fire services will respond if called. Current contracted companies on the MOD estate are QinetiQ at Aberporth, Boscombe Down, and Shoeburyness; Babcock International Group at Valley, and Colerne; and Serco at Cranwell, Scampton, Wyton, and High Wycombe.

Some of these contractors are also employed to provide fire protection services at other MOD establishments.

Services contracted for in this way are usually provided under larger multi activity contracts covering a number of sites. The individual contract costs of fire protection are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9055]

Mr Robathan: The overall delegate numbers from the whole of Government, and private individuals who paid to attend, for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively.

A detailed record of every member of Ministry of Defence staff that attends the event, and the number of working hours spent at the event is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9602]

Dr Fox: The Department is considering how savings will be achieved through its contributions to the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the Government's spending review, both of which are expected to report towards the end of the year.

Departmental Responsibilities

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish his Department's Structural Reform Plan. [9889]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence's Structural Reform Plan will depend on the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The plan will therefore be published after the review has been completed.

Depleted Uranium

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make it his policy to support international efforts to ensure transparency in the use of depleted uranium munitions in the 1991 Gulf War and 2003 Iraq War in order to reduce the potential risks to civilians and to facilitate safe management; and if he will make a statement; [8801]

(2) if he will publish the locations and quantity of depleted uranium munitions used by UK forces during the Iraq War; and what steps he has taken to monitor the effectiveness of depleted uranium clearance programmes in Iraq; [8809]

(3) if he will publish the geographical and quantitative data on the UK's use of depleted uranium munitions in the 1991 Gulf War and 2003 Iraq War held by his Department; if he will make representations to his NATO counterparts to release equivalent information held in their countries; and if he will make a statement. [8810]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has previously published information about the extremely limited use of depleted uranium (DU) munitions by UK forces during the 1991 Gulf War: less than one metric tonne of DU was expended in these munitions.

Approximately 1.9 metric tonnes of DU ammunition was expended in the 2003 Iraq War by UK forces. The MOD provided the coordinates of targets attacked using DU ammunition in 2003 to the United Nations (UN) Environmental Programme. The MOD also shared with the UN and the Government of Iraq the results of a scientific assessment carried out in June 2003 that indicated very low levels of DU even in the vicinity of vehicles struck by DU munitions.

Responsibility for clean-up after an armed conflict falls to the country's civilian administration with assistance from the international community. The World Health Organisation and the International Atomic Energy Agency state that the risks of DU can be controlled with simple countermeasures conducted by national authorities.

In Iraq, UK forces carried out ordnance disposal activities and removed surface-lying DU fragments as they were discovered. They also exchanged information with humanitarian and other organizations, and warned Iraqis through signs and leaflets that they should not go near or touch any debris they find on the former battlefield. The UK has also provided UN and Iraqi scientists with the results of our DU contamination monitoring in Iraq and offered to provide advice on carrying out risk assessments and on long-term monitoring of DU in the environment, including water.

The MOD has made it clear that we take seriously concerns about the effects of the use of DU munitions. However, the scientific literature and UN report of 24 July 2008 indicate that DU has not been shown to have, and indeed is very unlikely to have, any significant impact on the local population or on veterans.

Other nations' choices to share or not to share information are a matter for them alone.

Electronic Warfare

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will include in his Strategic Defence and Security review a review of the UK's cyber security defensive and offensive capability. [8821]

Nick Herbert: I have been asked to reply.

Cyber security is a key work strand in the ongoing Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). In subjecting cyber security to the review process the full range of cyber capabilities have been considered, including (but not limited to) defensive and offensive capability. This has involved detailed liaison and discussion across Government, including with the security agencies. The Government expect to publish the outcomes of the SDSR in the autumn, in co-ordination with the comprehensive spending review (CSR).

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the future provision of his Department's firing ranges in the Uists will be considered as part of the strategic defence and security review. [10631]

Dr Fox: The Strategic Defence and Security Review is looking at a wide range of options to ensure that the Defence budget is spent as efficiently, effectively and economically as possible. This includes the Department's approach to test and evaluation, and military training, including that provided at the Hebrides range.

Trident

Mr Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the terms of reference are for the Trident value for money review; what the timetable is for that review; which Departments will contribute to that review; which independent organisations will be consulted under that review; by what mechanisms that consultation will be undertaken; and whether that review will include consideration of the option of extending the life of the current Vanguard submarines beyond an additional five years; [9569]

(2) what account the *(a)* Strategic Defence and Security Review and *(b)* Comprehensive Spending Review will take of the Trident value for money review. [9571]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Both the value for money review of the Trident programme and the re-examination of the UK's declaratory nuclear policy will be conducted within the framework of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). The current policy of maintaining the UK's essential minimum deterrent remains unchanged. The Trident Value For Money Review is looking at whether this policy can be met while reducing the cost of the successor submarine and ballistic missile systems, including by shifting the balance between financial savings and operational risk.

The value for money review work will cover: the programme timetable; submarine numbers; numbers of missiles, missile tubes and warheads; infrastructure and other support costs; and the industrial supply chain.

The Ministry of Defence's work on the value for money review should be completed at the end of this month. The findings will go to the Cabinet Office, and will then be considered by the National Security Council. The Council's conclusions will inform the SDSR and the comprehensive spending review, which will be published in the autumn.

There are no plans for independent organisations to be consulted.

The review will consider the optimum programme timeline. Part of that work will include consideration of the costs and risks of further extending the Vanguard class beyond the planned five year life extension.

Mr Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will request the National Audit Office to evaluate the *(a)* assumptions on which the Trident value for money review will be based and *(b)* mechanisms by which that review will be carried out. [9570]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The National Audit Office is already reviewing the Department's financial planning process, which includes the assumptions for the successor deterrent programme. There is no intention to commission a further NAO review of the successor programme at this stage.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will lay before Parliament before the summer recess the report of the value-for-money study being undertaken into the Trident nuclear weapons systems replacement options. [9888]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* No. The Ministry of Defence's work on the value-for-money study should be completed at the end of this month. The findings will then go to the Cabinet Office for consideration by the National Security Council. The Council's conclusions will inform the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the Comprehensive Spending Review, which will be published in the autumn.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research and design work will need to be authorised in the assessment phase that will follow an initial gate decision to replace the Vanguard nuclear weapons capable submarines; which long lead items would be purchased during the assessment phase; what the estimated monetary value will be of contracts placed to deliver assessment phase work; in which financial year each such contract will be placed; over what financial years contract payments would be spread; and if he will make a statement. [9517]

Peter Luff: Decisions on the research and design work required during the assessment phase of the programme to replace the Vanguard submarine, as well as the associated commercial and procurement strategies, will be made as part of and following the Initial Gate approvals process, taking full account of the ongoing value-for-money review. The Initial Gate approvals process is currently planned to be completed towards the end of 2010.

Type 45 Destroyers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has visited the Royal Navy's new Type 45 destroyers since his appointment. [8855]

Dr Fox: I am planning a visit to a Type 45 destroyer early in the autumn.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Finance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for the use of Government funds earmarked for New Deal for Communities programmes in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Kings Norton, Birmingham which are (i) unallocated and (ii) not yet spent. [10327]

Andrew Stunell: The final year's funding of £78 million has been approved for the remaining 23 Round 2 NDCs across England including the West Midlands and Funding Agreement letters have been issued. The Funding Agreement for all NDCs state, as conditions, that they must secure best value for money in the purchase of goods and services made for the purposes of the programme and unspent grant must be returned to the department at the end of the financial year.

CLG funding for Round 1 NDCs (including Kings Norton) ended in March 2010.

Fire Services

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts were awarded to suppliers in respect of the FiReControl project; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [9947]

Robert Neill: The following major contracts have been awarded to suppliers in respect of the FiReControl protect:

A contract awarded to EADS to develop the IT solution worth around £200 million;

A seven year contract valued at around £25 million awarded to VT Flagship to provide facilities management services;

Lease agreements entered into for the nine Control Centres are as follows:

Control centre location	*Total rent payable for duration of the lease (£)*	*Length of lease (years)*
North East	28,000,000	20
East Midlands	39,000,000	25
South West	29,000,000	20
West Midlands	44,000,000	25
South East	46,000,000	25
North West	38,000,000	25
Yorkshire and Humberside	27,000,000	20
East of England	43,000,000	25
London	78,000,000	25

Leases for the north-east, east midlands and north-west control centres have been transferred to their local authority controlled companies (LACC). The other leases are currently held by the Department until the other LACCs are in a position to take these over.

In addition a list of commercial suppliers who have been paid under contracts worth more than £500 between project start up in April 2004 and June 2010, has been placed in the Library of the House

The FiReControl project is over-budget and behind schedule. The new Government are committed to ensuring value for money for the taxpayer improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Government Office for the North West

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the budget for the Government Office of the North West for 2010-11 will be used to promote enterprise in *(a)* Lancaster and *(b)* the North West. [10882]

Robert Neill: The Government office of the north-west does not hold a budget for the promotion of enterprise.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proportion of all homeless applicants to local authority housing departments had as the recorded principal ground of application the end of an assured shorthold tenancy in each of the last 10 years; [10564]

(2) what proportion of all homeless applicants to local authority housing departments in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland gave the end of an assured short hold tenancy as the principal grounds for the application in each of the last 10 years. [10565]

Grant Shapps: Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Figures broken down by reason for application are only available relating to homeless applicants accepted as being statutorily homeless, that is eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, rather than all homeless applicants, and these have been provided in the following table.

The Department does not hold statistics for the devolved Administrations.

Percentage of homeless households in priority need accepted by local authorities with termination of assured short hold tenancy as reason for loss of last settled home

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
England	15	15	14	13	13	13	14	15	13	11
North east	11	11	11	12	16	14	14	13	10	12
North west	8	9	10	11	13	12	12	13	9	9
Yorkshire and the Humber	10	12	9	10	12	11	12	12	9	9
East Midlands	15	16	15	13	14	15	17	18	16	15
West Midlands	11	10	12	12	13	13	14	15	12	11
East of England	21	21	20	16	16	15	16	18	15	13
London	12	13	11	10	9	10	12	15	13	10
South East	23	21	18	16	16	16	15	19	15	14
South West	25	24	22	20	21	20	21	23	17	17

Source:
Quarterly PIE returns, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Mayors

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which 12 English cities it is intended to introduce elected mayors; and what the *(a)* geographical area of and *(b)* population will be within each mayoralty. [10256]

Robert Neill: The Structural Reform Plan, published by my Department on 8 July, states that we will legislate through the Localism Bill for directly elected mayors to enable the largest 12 cities in England to have mayors from 2012, subject to confirmatory referendums and full scrutiny by elected councillors.

National Parks: Planning

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the adequacy of arrangements to encourage economic development in national parks through the planning process; and if he will make a statement. [9841]

Robert Neill: National policy set out in Planning Policy Statement 4: "Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth" supports economic development in rural areas, including locations remote from local service centres where small scale and the most sustainable option.

We will create a presumption in favour of sustainable development in the planning system and will provide incentives to help people to decide locally on what development is appropriate in their areas. In national parks, the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside, wildlife and cultural heritage should carry great weight in planning decisions so that we protect the environment for future generations.

Parliament Square: Protest

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of cleaning the camp site on Parliament Square; and if he will make a statement. [10610]

Robert Neill: Costs for the decontamination, cleaning, graffiti removal, replanting and reseeding are expected to be in the region of £50,000.

Source:
GLA

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who has responsibility for the restoration of Parliament Square following the eviction of protestors camped in the square; and if he will make a statement. [10611]

Robert Neill: Under the Greater London Authority Act, the GLA is responsible for the control and management of Parliament Square Gardens and therefore all costs and actions in relation to the reinstatement of Parliament Square, following the eviction of the protestors, is the responsibility of the GLA.

Source:
GLA

Small Resort Benchmarking Study

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when Professor Steven Fothergill's report The Small Resort Benchmarking Study in England and Wales is to be published. [10005]

Robert Neill: Ministers are currently considering a publication timetable for all research reports funded by the Department that have been delayed due to purdah. It is expected that these reports will be published over the summer.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 531W, on the Working Neighbourhood Fund: Birmingham, what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Birmingham Local Strategic Partnership and *(b)* Birmingham City Council and other constituent organisations of the partnership on the (i) use and (ii) future of Working Neighbourhood Fund programmes in Birmingham. [10384]

Robert Neill: The Working Neighbourhoods Fund is paid as part of area based grant. This gives councils the flexibility to take decisions locally on how best to meet their priorities.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with either the Birmingham Local Strategic Partnership or Birmingham City Council on the use and future of the WNF programme in Birmingham

Ministers would be happy to meet representatives of Birmingham City Council to discuss these issues.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Data Protection

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what assessment has been made of the extent of liability of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) for any financial implications for hon. Members in the event of the alleged unauthorised disclosure of personal details by the Authority. [10139]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible for IPSA to provide a response to this question by the named day. IPSA will respond as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Charles Walker to Helen Jones:

Under section 13(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, an individual MP who can show that he or she has suffered damage by reason of any contravention by IPSA of any of the requirements of the Data Protection Act is entitled to claim compensation from IPSA for that damage.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity: Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on levels of biodiversity of higher level stewardship schemes; and how such effects are measured. [9825]

Richard Benyon: The monitoring and evaluation of the biodiversity benefits of Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreements are part of a continuous process carried out (at the agreement and option level) under Natural England's Environmental Stewardship monitoring programme. Further information regarding the biodiversity performance of HLS can be found within Natural England's report 'Agri-environment schemes in England 2009. A review of results and effectiveness'. The full report can be found at:

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/aesiereport_aspx

Each HLS agreement also has an individually tailored set of "indicators of success"—against which progress towards the delivery of biodiversity and other benefits can be measured.

Commonwealth

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which Commonwealth organisations her Department provides grant funding; and how much it has provided to each in each of the last 10 years. [10632]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA provided grant funding to one Commonwealth organisation between the time the Department was created in June 2001 and 31 March 2010:

Organisation	*2009-10 (£000)*
Commonwealth Foundation	87.9

This funding was provided for building civil society capacity for conservation in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories, under the Darwin Initiative, more information about which can be found at:

http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/

Dangerous Dogs

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dogs were destroyed in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* the London Borough of Ealing following seizure under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in the last three years. [10217]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* Figures detailing the number of dogs destroyed following seizure under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England in the last three years cannot be provided because these figures are not held centrally.

Figures detailing the number of such dogs destroyed in London, and in the London Borough of Ealing in the last three years will be placed in the House Library shortly.

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dogs are being kennelled in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* the London borough of Ealing while their status under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 is being determined. [10218]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* Figures detailing the number of dogs currently being kennelled in England while their status under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 is being decided cannot be provided because these figures are not held centrally.

Figures detailing the number of such dogs currently being kennelled in London, and in the London borough of Ealing, will be placed in the House Library shortly.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7566]

Richard Benyon: In response to the amount spent on legal advice since 1997, the Department was not formed until 2001 and data between then and April 2002 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The amount spent on legal advice each year since April 2006 for core DEFRA is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Value (£ million)*
2006-07	3.8
2007-08	3.24
2008-09	3.27
2009-10	3.23

It should be noted that these figures do not include advice from Treasury solicitors, parliamentary counsel and Agency lawyers.

In respect of the earlier years, 2002-06 an answer was tabled in a previously response to David Davis MP in January 2007 and the figures given are tabled as follows:

Financial year	*Value (£)*
2002-03	12,167,098
2002-04	7,692,318
2004-05	13,074,870
2005-06	5,801,097
2006-07 to date	1,874,672

Information on legal advice obtained by its Agencies and NDPB's is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental NDPBs

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* date of establishment, *(b)* number of staff employed and *(c)* annual budget is of each of her Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [10475]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out in the tables. The following should be considered alongside this:

(a) the date of establishment reflects the year each body was established.

(b) the number of staff employed reflects full-time equivalents and the latest information available. Where the number of staff employed is shown as zero, this reflects the fact that many smaller NDPBs utilise a minimal secretariat function provided by staff employed within the core Department.

(c) the annual budget is the sum of the current admin, programme and capital allocations for each body for 2010-11 (£ million).

Executive agencies

	(a) Date of establishment	*(b) Number of staff employed*	*(c) 2010-11 annual budget (£ million)*
Animal Health	2007	1,565	131.5
CEFAS[1]	1997	491	5.9
Fera[1]	2009	835	2.5
RPA	2001	3,700	192.1
VLA[1]	1995	1210	6.8
VMD[1]	1990	152.5	0.3

[1] CEFAS, Fera, the VLA and the VMD are net control agencies, i.e. they net off receipts against gross running costs. The budget figures shown thus represent capital funding only.

Executive NDPBs

	(a) Date of establishment	*(b) Number of staff employed*	*(c) 2010-11 annual budget (£ million)*
Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board[2]	2008	0	0.0
Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales	1948	0	0.0
Agricultural Wages Committees (x15)	1948	0	0.0
Commission for Rural Communities	2006	74	5.8
Consumer Council for Water	2005	88	5.2
Environment Agency	1996	13,181	1245.8
Gangmasters Licensing Authority (Licensing)	2005	93	1.5
Gangmasters Licensing Authority (Enforcement)	2005	0	2.7
Joint Nature Conservation Committee[3]	1990	134	1.8
Marine Management Organisation	2010	258	32.4
National Forest Company	1995	18	3.4
Natural England[4]	2006	2,413	205.0
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	1983	[1]800	27.1
Sea Fish Industry Authority[2]	1981	95	0.0

Executive NDPBs

	(a) Date of establishment	*(b) Number of staff employed*	*(c) 2010-11 annual budget (£ million)*
Sustainable Development Commission	2009	45	2.5

[2] Levy-funded body: income from the levy covers expenditure on running costs.

[3] DEFRA alone funds the costs of JNCC's work on reserved matters such as marine work beyond territorial waters, overseas territories and international conventions. This element of the budget is set out in the table above. The remaining costs are shared by DEFRA (49.25%) funded through Natural England; Scottish Executive (29%) funded through Scottish Natural Heritage; Welsh Assembly Government (14.5%) funded through the Countryside Council for Wales; and DOE Northern Ireland (7.25%). Further funding in 2010-11 will come from the Defray Marine Programme for the establishment and monitoring of marine protected areas/marine conservation zones and broader marine biodiversity monitoring needs.

[4] Excludes Rural Development Programme for England funding; the contribution which NE makes to JNCC; and its income from activities and certain other sources (e.g. rents).

Advisory NDPBs

	(a) Date of establishment	*(b) Number of staff employed*	*(c) 2010-11 annual budget (£ million)*
Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances	1991	0	0.0
Advisory Committee on Organic Standards	2003	0	0.0
Advisory Committee on Packaging	1996	0	0.0
Advisory Committee on Pesticides	1985	0	0.0
Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment	1990	0	0.0
Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees (x 16)	1976	0	0.0
Air Quality Expert Group	2002	0.5	0.1
Bovine TB Eradication Group for England	2009	0	0.0
Darwin Advisory Committee	1993	0	0.0
Farm Animal Welfare Council	1979	0	0.0
Independent Agricultural Appeals Panel	2002	0	0.0
Inland Waterways Advisory Council	2007	2	0.2
National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources	2008	0	0.0
Pesticides Residue Committee	2000	0	0.0
Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution	1970	10	1.0
Science Advisory Council	2004	2.8	0.3
Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee	1990	0	0.1
Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries Advisory Group	2009	0	0.0
Veterinary Products Committee	1970	0	0.0
Veterinary Residues Committee	2001	0	0.0
Zoos Forum	1999	0	0.0

Tribunal NDPB

	(a) Date of establishment	*(b) Number of staff employed*	*(c) 2010-11 annual budget (£ million)*
Agricultural Land Tribunals	1947	0	0.0

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many of her Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3638]

(2) how many officials in her Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to her Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure her Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3660]

Richard Benyon: Work on assessing our current contracts and identifying the scope for renegotiation is currently under way following the announcements in the Budget. It is too early to say what will be the outcome in terms of numbers of contracts affected, likely savings or number of staff involved in the activity.

Leeds-Liverpool Canal

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received on the proposed partial closure of the Leeds-Liverpool canal due to a lack of rainfall. [10326]

Richard Benyon: No representations have been received regarding the closure of the Leeds-Liverpool canal because of the lack of rainfall. This is an operational matter for British Waterways (BW).

BW advised me of planned closures of parts of the Leeds and Liverpool canal. It also advised that the reason was severe drought and they are doing all they can to conserve water levels, and will reopen the canal as soon as sufficient water supplies become available. In the meantime they are contacting all affected customers, and will do all that they can to minimise the impact on them.

National Parks: Public Consultation

Mr Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department plans to undertake a public consultation as part of its review of the governance arrangements of national parks; and if she will make a statement. [9241]

Richard Benyon: As set out in the Government's coalition document, we will be reviewing the governance arrangements of national parks. I have now written to the chair of the English National Park Authorities Association on this issue. No timetable has yet been set, but we will keep the DEFRA website updated on progress.

Peat

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will bring forward proposals for the compulsory labelling of horticultural composts to indicate the percentage of peat they contain; [10476]

(2) what steps she is taking to phase out the use of peat in garden compost; and if she will make a statement. [10477]

Richard Benyon: We are currently considering our approach to a new policy to reduce the horticultural use of peat in growing media and, as part of this, are considering the labelling of growing media products. The most recent data for peat sales throughout 2009 will be published shortly, and this will feed into the development of future policy.

We believe that retail growing media products should be clearly labelled so that the consumer is aware of whether or not they contain peat, and can, therefore, make an informed purchase choice. Some manufacturers have already introduced new labelling schemes for their bagged growing media this season, and it is encouraging that there are plans to develop these further for 2011.

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the contribution of peat soils *(a)* in storing carbon dioxide, *(b)* as habitats for wildlife and *(c)* as archaeological sites; and if she will make a statement. [10479]

Richard Benyon: Peat soils provide a wide range of 'ecosystem services' or functions for society, including carbon storage. UK peat soils are estimated to store around 5.5 billion tonnes of carbon, equivalent to 31 times the UK's total annual greenhouse gas emissions if it were all lost to the atmosphere.

Peat soils also support valuable wildlife and biodiversity and a range of peatland habitats in both upland areas (for example, blanket bogs and moorland) and lowlands (for example, raised bogs and fens). The importance of peatland habitats is recognised by the designation of 68% of English upland blanket bogs as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and 85% of lowland raised bogs.

Formed over hundreds and thousands of years in cold and wet conditions, peat soils are of special interest for archaeology. The preservation of organic materials (e.g. wood, skin, leather, hair, textiles and plant remains) in peat has led to a better and more detailed understanding of the past, including valuable information about past environmental and climatic change. English Heritage surveys of the main wetlands in England show that there are 4,200 archaeological sites in lowland peatlands alone.

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will estimate the effect on the level of carbon dioxide emissions of restoring peat extraction sites to sphagnum-forming bogs; [10463]

(2) what assessment she has given of the likely effect on the level of carbon dioxide emissions of the restoration of peat bogs; and if she will make a statement; [10464]

(3) what assessment she has made of the contribution of lowland raised bogs in *(a)* reducing the level of carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* contributing to Government targets contained in the Biodiversity Action Plan. [10480]

Richard Benyon: Degraded peatlands emit carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere as their store of carbon is oxidised. The primary objective of most restoration activities is to protect the underlying peat (for example, by re-wetting or re-vegetating) and to halt the emissions associated with degradation.

Restoration to an active peat-forming bog is more challenging and can take many decades, if not centuries. As such, accumulation of new carbon in restored and active peat bogs (in other words, the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere) is a slow process, and peat is, therefore, viewed as an essentially non-renewable resource. However, active bogs do accumulate carbon (by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere) at a rate of 0.2 to 0.7 tonnes per hectare per year, under UK conditions.

A DEFRA study in 2009 concluded that the restoration of degraded peatlands is generally beneficial from an overall global warming point of view as it protects the carbon store from further degradation. However, it is recognised that active peat bogs are also, naturally, a source of methane emissions, and any post-restoration savings in emissions of carbon dioxide need to be carefully balanced against the potential for increased emissions of methane. DEFRA has recently commissioned further research to develop best practices for restoration, focusing on techniques to minimise methane emissions.

The domestic extraction of peat for horticultural use in the UK, predominantly from lowland raised bogs, is estimated to result in emissions of at least 400,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year (not including the emissions associated with peat imports). If extraction from these sites halted and they were restored to sphagnum-forming bogs, these emissions would be halted—although, as above, restoration to an active bog can take many decades, or even centuries.

Lowland raised bogs are an important store of carbon, with underlying deposits of up to 10 metres deep, and raised bogs in England alone are estimated to store over 57 million tonnes of carbon. This is equivalent to a third of the UK's total annual greenhouse gas emissions, if it were all lost to the atmosphere.

The Biodiversity Action Plan contained four specific targets for lowland raised bogs. Progress against each was assessed in 2008 by the UK Biodiversity Partnership and this assessment can be found on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's website at:

www.jncc.gov.uk

Pesticides: Regulation

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure compliance with regulations on the use of pesticides. [9952]

Mr Paice: Compliance with regulations on the use of pesticides is ensured via an established combination of surveillance (including food, wildlife and environment monitoring programmes) and reactive investigation undertaken by various enforcement bodies including the Health and Safety Executive, the Rural Payments Agency, local authorities and the Environment Agency.

Regional agencies acting on behalf of the devolved administrations ensure compliance in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to enforce regulations on spray drift of pesticides. [9959]

Mr Paice: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has responsibility for enforcement in this specific area. Over-spraying or spray-drift incidents reported to HSE are assessed and where necessary subject to investigation and appropriate regulatory action including prosecution.

Pets: Animal Welfare

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of progress of her Department's research project on electric pet training devices; and *(a)* how, *(b)* where and *(c)* through whom the dogs used in the study have been sourced. [6769]

Mr Paice: We have been monitoring progress of the research project on electronic training devices closely. This includes meeting with all of the contractors involved with the project and regular contact via email and telephone. The project was also assessed by animal welfare experts as part of the review of all DEFRA-funded animal welfare Research and Development held in March 2010.

The dogs used in the research project have been sourced from a number of locations, organisations and individuals e.g. through a survey of dog owners; via experienced dog trainers; through kennels for staff pets at a university; and through a dog training class at an agricultural college.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the beak-trimming of laying hens. [8353]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Blaydon (Mr Anderson) on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 150W.

The Government have accepted the advice of The Farm Animal Welfare Council, an independent advisory body, that a complete ban on beak trimming of laying hens should not be introduced from 1 January 2011 (as is currently in legislation), but should be deferred until it can be demonstrated reliably under commercial conditions that laying hens can be managed without routine beak trimming.

The Government's consultation on the proposed amendments to the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007, to remove the total ban on beak trimming allowing for the routine beak trimming of day old chicks intended for laying to be carried out using the infra-red technique only, closed on the 14 April. Consultation responses are currently being considered.

SCOTLAND

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any consequential adjustment to payments to Scotland under the Barnett Formula arise from the changes to the Building Schools for the Future programme in England. [10185]

Michael Moore: No Barnett consequentials arose from the Secretary of State for Education's announcement in respect of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Constituency Size: Scotland

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on the implementation in Scotland of plans to equalise the size of constituencies in Scotland. [9222]

Michael Moore: The plans to equalise the size of constituencies across the United Kingdom will apply to Scotland as they will elsewhere.

However, the Government have proposed the two exceptions of Orkney and Shetland and Na h-Eileanan an Iar as those islands are less accessible and harder to traverse. We have concluded that exceptions for these areas are justified by their particular geography.

The forthcoming Bill will also provide for an upper limit on the geographical size of a constituency.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8233]

David Mundell: Scotland Office expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by its Ministers is as follows:

	May 2010	June 2010
		£
The Secretary of State for Scotland	836	497
The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland	1,069	232

All ministerial travel is undertaken by the most efficient and cost effective way, in accordance with the Ministerial Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Devolution: Scotland

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the relationship between the Government and the Scottish Executive under the devolution settlement. [9153]

Michael Moore: The Government are committed to an agenda of mutual respect with all three devolved Administrations. This commitment has been demonstrated by the attendance of the Prime Minister and Chief Secretary of the Treasury at the Scottish Parliament, very early after appointment. I have appeared before the Scottish Parliament's committee of conveners and have made clear my willingness to engage with both the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament on a regular basis.

Economic Situation: Scotland

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with CBI Scotland on the condition of the Scottish economy. [9154]

Michael Moore: I have had productive discussions with CBI Scotland and others on the Scottish economy, as had my right hon. Friend the Under-Secretary, and I plan to meet them again in the near future. Our plan to cut the record budget deficit that this Government inherited is the key to a sustained economic recovery.

VAT: Scotland

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the sum to accrue to the Exchequer from Scotland attributable to the proposed increase in the standard rate of value added tax in each of the next five years. [10186]

Michael Moore: A geographical breakdown of the impact of the increase of the main rate of VAT has not been published. Detailed estimates of the annual yield of this measure are available in chapter 2 of the published HM Treasury June Budget 2010 document. Our necessary plan to cut the record budget deficit that this Government inherited, goes hand in hand with our determination to return sustained growth to the Scottish economy.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what models he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on the Scottish economy of the proposed rise in the standard rate of value added tax. [10187]

Michael Moore: The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) models the impact arising from Government policies for the whole of the United Kingdom. The VAT rise is part our necessary plan to cut the record budget deficit that this Government inherited. Reducing this deficit is essential, and goes hand in hand with our determination to return sustained growth to the Scottish economy.

Wind Power: Capital Investment

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effect on the Scottish economy of planned reductions in funding to the Offshore Wind Capital Grants Scheme. [10487]

Michael Moore: As part of the £85 million savings the Department for Energy and Climate Change is contributing to reduce the public deficit, funding available under the Offshore Wind Capital Grants Scheme has been reduced by £3 million. However, this reduction will not affect the £5 million of grants announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 5 July 2010, including the award of £800,000 to NGentec in Edinburgh.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on reductions in funding to the Offshore Wind Capital Grants Scheme. [10572]

Michael Moore: As part of the £85 million savings the Department for Energy and Climate Change is contributing to reduce the public deficit, funding available under the Offshore Wind Capital Grants Scheme has been reduced by £3 million. However, this reduction will not affect the £5 million of grants announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 5 July 2010.

EDUCATION

Academies

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* Bristol, *(b)* South Gloucestershire and *(c)* Bath and North East Somerset local authority areas have expressed an interest in becoming academy schools. [7388]

Mr Gibb: The information is as follows:

(a) For Bristol we have received one expression of interest from an outstanding school and four from schools that are not classed as outstanding.

(b) For South Gloucestershire we have received one expression of interest from an outstanding school and 16 expressions of interests from schools that are not classified as outstanding.

(c) For Bath and North East Somerset we have received six expressions of interests from outstanding schools and four from schools that are not classed as outstanding.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 49, on education funding, by what date he expects the review of his Department's capital spending to be completed. [7023]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The Review Panel has begun work and we expect them to conclude their review by the end of the calendar year.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8324]

Tim Loughton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, for Department for Transport on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6563]

Tim Loughton: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Educational Psychology: Training

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the number of educational psychologists expected to complete their training in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012. [9684]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The numbers of educational psychologists currently expected to complete training are as follows:

(a) 2010: 110

(b) 2011: 121

(c) 2012: 122.

Ministers' Private Offices

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff worked in his Department's ministerial support office on *(a)* 1 May 2010 and *(b)* 1 July 2010. [6154]

Tim Loughton: The number of full-time equivalent staff in the Department's ministerial offices as at 1 May 2010 was 36.7. As at 1 July 2010 the Department's ministerial offices had 31.7 full-time equivalent staff.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the significant premium for disadvantaged pupils will be per pupil; and when he plans to make it available. [8628]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* We are currently considering school funding arrangements, including the pupil premium for disadvantaged children. We will be announcing our proposals in due course.

Schools

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in England *(a)* are grammar schools, *(b)* are controlled, foundation, voluntary-aided or voluntary-controlled and *(c)* have sixth forms; and how many grammar schools with sixth forms are controlled, foundation, voluntary-aided or voluntary-controlled. [4018]

Mr Gibb: The information is as follows:

(a) There are 164 grammar schools in England.

(b) The following table represents the number of establishments per type which have a sixth form; this does not include the grammar schools or middle deemed primary or primary schools, grammar school data have been included in table c.

Number

Types of establishment	*Have a sixth form*	*Does not have a sixth form*	*Total*
Community school	763	872	1,635
Foundation school	466	261	727
Voluntary aided school	308	199	507
Voluntary controlled school	56	38	94
Total	1,593	1,369	2,963

(c) The following table represents the total number of grammar schools which have a sixth form broken down by type of establishment.

Number

Types of grammar school	*Have a sixth form*	*Total*
Community school	26	26
Foundation school	97	97
Voluntary aided school	33	33
Voluntary controlled school	8	8

Source:
EduBase 2.

Schools: Standards

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether it is his policy that outstanding schools will not be subject to Ofsted inspection unless standards at those schools start to deteriorate. [9554]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* It is the Government's intention that, in future, schools judged outstanding by Ofsted will not be subject to routine inspection by Ofsted, conditional on them maintaining both high performance and the confidence of parents.

Parents will be able to trigger an emergency inspection as is currently the case.

Schools: VAT

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the financial effect on maintained schools of the increase in the rate of value added tax in 2011. [7268]

Mr Gibb: In general terms, local authorities can recover input value added tax, so their costs will not rise when the VAT rate rises. Since maintained schools count as part of the local authority when spending local authority funds (section 49(5) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998), they can recover VAT through their maintaining authority. There are a few exceptions to this rule, but we estimate that the increase in the rate of VAT will not cause any significant pressure on schools' budgets.

Social Services

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to pilot a social work manager support programme in 2011. [10329]

Tim Loughton: The Children's Workforce Development Council is already developing an offer of support for front line managers in social work. 16 children's services across the country are trialling approaches to ensuring their aspiring, new and experienced managers in their social work teams are properly equipped for the demands of the role. A further 69 children's services have expressed an interest in doing so later this year. The Department of Health is taking a similar approach in adult services and we will build on this work to develop a consistent offer for the whole profession from 2011.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to involve children and young people in the development and delivery of his Department's social work reform programme. [10330]

Tim Loughton: The Department and the Social Work Reform Board are committed to involving service users, including children and young people, in the development and delivery of the social work reform programme.

The Social Work Reform Board includes a representative of A National Voice, an organisation run by and for young people who are in or leaving care. We have sought advice from him and other members of the Reform Board, and several networks of organisations representing children and young people, and we intend to use a number of approaches. These will include a reference group of young people, service users and carers, providing feedback on the reform programme to the Social Work Reform Board, and involvement in working groups developing detailed proposals on achievement of the Social Work Task Force's recommendations.

In addition, children and young people are already being involved in the development and delivery of various social work pilots. For example, the recruitment process for the 'Step Up to Social Work' pilot required candidates to complete exercises where they interacted with children and young people.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department plans to allocate to social work reform as outlined in Building a safe and confident future: Implementing the recommendations of the Social Work Taskforce in 2010-11. [10331]

Tim Loughton: The following funding was confirmed in a written statement to the House on 10 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 17-19WS, as part of the announcement of Professor Munro's review of child protection:

A £23 million Local Social Work Improvement Fund will be available to local authority children's services in 2010-11.

The continuation of Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) programmes to support recruitment and retention of social workers.

Funding to support the establishment of an independent College of Social Work.

Continuation of pilots of Social Work Practices.

We have found some efficiencies (£6 million) in the CWDC work announced by the previous Government in "Building a safe and confident future: implementing the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force", which have been achieved by reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, marketing and overlap. Similarly, rather than proceed with a grant for IT improvement (£15 million) announced in that publication, I have asked the Munro Review to consider in detail the question of how IT can best support effective social work practice.

Teachers: Rights of Accused

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has received recent representations on granting anonymity to teachers accused of a sexual offence by pupils; and if he will make a statement. [5934]

Tim Loughton: I have received no recent representations on granting anonymity to teachers accused of a sexual offence by pupils. In our coalition programme we made a commitment to give anonymity to teachers accused by pupils. We are currently considering how to take this forward and will make an announcement in due course.

I know that being named in the press can cause untold harm to teachers who are subsequently acquitted or against whom no further action is taken and I am determined to increase the protection given to them.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Civil Service Recruitment

9. **Mike Freer:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on increasing recruitment to the civil service from black, Asian and other minority ethnic people. [10310]

Lynne Featherstone: Black, Asian and other minority ethnic (BAME) representation in the civil service has been increasing steadily and is broadly representative of the economically active population. The Government are committed to attracting the best talent from the widest pool of candidates. There have been targeted and successful efforts to make the civil service and fast stream more diverse. My Cabinet colleagues are looking at the range of BAME internships run by Departments and I expect to have discussions with them on this matter in due course.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what her estimate is of the mileage she travelled in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8317]

Lynne Featherstone: The Minister for Women and Equalities did not travel in a Government car on official GEO business in May 2010 or June 2010.

Education: Females

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) educational achievements and (ii) achievements in working life of women; and if she will make a statement. [10243]

Lynne Featherstone: I have not commissioned any research specifically on these subjects but I will set out what we know.

There is a gender gap in achievement at school, with girls overall gaining higher qualifications than boys. Schools with little or no gender gap tend to have a positive learning ethos, high expectations of all pupils, high quality teaching and classroom management and close tracking of individual pupils' achievement.

We also know that more women are now completing further education than men. In 2008-09 57% of first degree graduates from courses at UK higher education institutions were female.

Despite these achievements in education women are still, on average, earning 12.2% less than men (comparing the median hourly wages of men and women working full-time).

We have pledged to tackle this by promoting equal pay and we will take a range of measures to end discrimination and disadvantage in the work place. The role of women as primary carers in many families contributes to the pay gap so we will be introducing measures to help people balance their work and home responsibilities. These include extending the right to request flexible working for all and promoting a system of flexible parental leave. We are also looking at how to promote gender equality on the boards of listed companies.

Ethnic Minorities

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what her policy is on adoption of measures to assist people from ethnic minorities to obtain senior positions in the public and private sector. [10244]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all under-represented groups in both the public and private sector.

To pave the way we have outlined some of our proposals for change in the new Coalition programme for government. So for example, we will:

promote opportunities by providing internships for under-represented minorities in every Whitehall Department;

fund a targeted national enterprise mentoring scheme for black and minority ethnic (BAME) people who want to start a business; and

we will look to promote gender equality on the boards of listed companies.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Leader of the House what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Office since his appointment. [9821]

Mr Heath: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

TRANSPORT

Rail Network

1. **Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to improve the long-term financial viability of the rail network. [10274]

Mr Philip Hammond: Sir Roy McNulty's review of value for money on the railway has produced a scoping study, which identifies that the UK's railway is prima facie up to 40% more expensive than elsewhere in Europe. We must adjust to a world in which our aspirations for a successful railway have to be met from within a much tighter public spending envelope. Therefore, I have asked Sir Roy to accelerate his work, looking at the drivers of cost across the industry and to produce recommendations to create a sustainable railway with growing passenger usage and declining subsidy.

Todmorden Curve

17. **Graham Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress he has made on the Todmorden Curve rail project. [10291]

Mrs Villiers: The Todmorden Curve rail project is being promoted by Burnley borough council and Lancashire county council. These local authorities are working with Network Rail to develop a business case for funding from local sources.

Rail Electrification

18. **Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of local transport authorities on the electrification of the Wrexham to Bidston rail line; and if he will make a statement. [10292]

Mrs Villiers: The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for Arriva Trains Wales' services between Wrexham and Bidston. We continue to keep in touch with the Welsh Assembly Government and Merseytravel about options for the line. I discussed electrification of the Wrexham-Bidston line when I met the Director General of Merseytravel on 23 June.

Rail Franchising

19. **Jane Ellison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the Government's review of rail franchising; and if he will make a statement. [10293]

Mrs Villiers: The Government today launched their consultation on the future of rail franchising policy.

Our proposed reforms will lead to longer, more flexible franchises to incentivise private sector investment in the railways to benefit passengers and improve value for money.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition: Expenditure

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its agencies have spent on the installation of automatic number plate recognition cameras to date. [9080]

Mike Penning: The total cost of establishing the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) capability from 2002-03 to date is £7.7 million. This includes all capital and running costs (including the cost of the vehicles). The total cost of establishing the Highway's Agency's ANPR capability from September 2001 to date is £12.5 million. The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) capital expenditure on ANPR and Weigh in Motion Sensors from 2003-04 to March 2010 was £3.4 million. This figure cannot be disaggregated without incurring disproportionate costs.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to achieve agreement at EU level on reducing aviation emissions. [8973]

Mrs Villiers: An agreement at EU level on reducing aviation emissions already exists. In 2008 the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission agreed to include aviation in the EU Emissions Trading System from 1 January 2012. This agreement limits CO_2 emissions from aviation to 97% of the average annual emissions between 2004-06 in 2012. In 2013 this cap on emissions will tighten to 95% of the average annual emissions levels between 2004-06.

Inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading System is complemented by operational and technological measures at European level, such as the implementation of the Single European Sky project which would make air traffic management more efficient.

Crossrail Line: Expenditure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on Crossrail from *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* private sources to date; and what estimate his Department has made of the annual expenditure from each source until completion. [9071]

Mrs Villiers: In relation to public sector expenditure on Crossrail, I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 43WS.

In relation to private funding, there are specific agreements with Canary Wharf Group (for £150 million), City of London (for £350 million), BAA (for £230 million), and Berkeley Homes Group (to construct the Woolwich Station box) as well as wider contributions being made through business rate supplements, the planned community infrastructure levy and Section 106 developer contributions.

Construction of the Canary Wharf Crossrail station is currently under way and good progress is being made. It is envisaged, on the current rate of construction, that the £150 million Canary Wharf Group contribution to Crossrail will have been put in to the project by June 2011. The other contributions are subject to conditions being met which are set out in the specific agreements. The detailed profile of expenditure by private sector contributors is commercially confidential.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7957]

Mike Penning: The total spent by the Department for Transport on car services provided by the Government Car Service for the period 12 May 2010 to 12 July 2010 is £35,441.04 (excl. VAT). The costs cover all car services provided to Ministers plus on-demand taxi-style services provided to officials.

The new Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, contains changes that affect ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car. It states that:

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed".

The Department for Transport and its Government Car and Despatch Agency are working with Departments to effect the transition to the new arrangements.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7958]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to the answers of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 6W and 8 July 2010; *Official Report*, column 371W.

In addition, the Government publishes on a quarterly basis, the expenses incurred by the most senior officials which includes use of the Government car service and other travel expenses.

East Coast Railway Line

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the effects on *(a)* levels of employment, *(b)* economic growth and *(c)* the environment of reductions in (i) direct train services between Lincoln and London and (ii) other rail services on the East Coast Main Line. [9232]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* No reductions are planned in direct train services between Lincoln and London or in other services on the East Coast Main Line. The new timetable, which will start in May 2011, increases the number of trains on the route and introduces the first direct trains between Lincoln and London King's Cross for many years.

Assessment of major changes to railway timetables is carried out in line with the Department's appraisal guidance for transport schemes, which covers a range of costs and benefits including economic and environmental impacts.

Heathrow Airport: Night Flying

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions the legal limit on night flights has been breached at Heathrow airport in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [10559]

Mrs Villiers: Aircraft departing from Heathrow at night are required to operate within noise limits prescribed by my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport. During the May 2009 to June 2010 period, there were 67 night noise infringements. In all these cases, the operator was fined by the airport. All revenue from fines is donated to a local fund used to finance local community projects.

London-East Grinstead Railway Line

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what statistics his Department holds on *(a)* punctuality and reliability and *(b)* passengers in excess numbers for rail services on the East Grinstead to London route in each month since November 2009. [9578]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Department for Transport does not hold disaggregated performance data for East Grinstead to London. However, the following table shows the public performance measure (PPM) for all Southern services since November 2009. The Period PPM column shows performance in the period itself, while the PPM MAA column shows the moving annual average for the previous 12 months. PPM combines figures for punctuality and reliability into a single performance measure.

Period	*Period PPM*	*Percentage PPMMAA*
15 November to 12 December 2009	87.5	90.5
13 December to 9 January 2010	77.7	89.8
10 January to 6 February 2010	86.1	89.7
7 February to 6 March 2010	91.4	90.5
7 March to 31 March 2010	94.0	90.7
1 April to 1 May 2010	94.8	90.8
2 May to 29 May 2010	93.6	90.9
30 May 26 June 2010	92.2	90.7

Information relating to passengers in excess numbers for rail services on the East Grinstead to London route is not measured on the basis sought and is not available. The information requested is currently published annually in aggregated form by the Office for Rail Regulation within its 'National Rail Trends Yearbook'. The latest published data relate to passenger journeys in 2008-09. Chapter 7 of the latest update of 'National Rail Trends' contains these data and is available on the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

London-Haywards Heath Railway Line

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what statistics his Department holds on *(a)* punctuality and reliability and *(b)* passengers in excess numbers for rail services on the Haywards Heath to London route in each month since November 2009. [9577]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Department for Transport does not hold disaggregated performance data for Haywards Heath to London. However, the following tables show the public performance measure (PPM) for all Southern and First Capital Connect services since November 2009.

The Period PPM column shows performance in the period itself, while the PPM MAA column shows the moving annual average for the previous 12 months. PPM combines figures for punctuality and reliability into a single performance measure.

Southern PPM

	Percentage	
Period	*Period PPM*	*PPM MAA*
15 November to 12 December 2009	87.5	90.5
13 December to 9 January 2010	77.7	89.8
10 January to 6 February 2010	86.1	89.7
7 February to 6 March 2010	91.4	90.5
7 March to 31 March 2010	94.0	90.7
1 April to 1 May 2010	94.8	90.8
2 May to 29 May 2010	93.6	90.9
30 May to 26 June 2010	92.2	90.7

First Capital Connect PPM

Period	*Period PPM*	*Percentage PPM MAA*
15 November to 12 December 2009	85.8	90.7
13 December to 9 January 2010	73.0	89.5
10 January to 6 February 2010	85.0	88.9
7 February to 6 March 2010	88.4	89.5
7 March to 31 March 2010	92.6	89.4

First Capital Connect PPM

Period	*Period PPM*	*Percentage PPM MAA*
1 April to 1 May 2010	93.0	89.5
2 May to 29 May 2010	93.7	89.6
30 May to 26 June 2010	90.4	89.3

Information relating to passengers in excess numbers for rail services on the Haywards Heath to London route is not measured on the basis sought and is not available. The information requested is currently published annually in aggregated form by the Office for Rail Regulation within its 'National Rail Trends Yearbook'. The latest published data relate to passenger journeys in 2008-09. Chapter 7 of the latest update of 'National Rail Trends' contains these data and is available on the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

Network Rail: Finance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what correspondence his Department has had with Network Rail officials on how Network Rail plans to reduce its expenditure by £100 million in 2010-11; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such item of correspondence. [2302]

Mrs Villiers: No formal correspondence exists between the Department for Transport and Network Rail on this matter. However, some e-mails exist covering the arrangements for the announcement and I am placing copies in the Libraries of the House.

Network Rail: Pay

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings he has had with Network Rail since his appointment; and whether executive pay at Network Rail was included on the agenda of those meetings. [5066]

Mrs Villiers: The issue of executive pay has not been included on the agenda of any meeting my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has held with Network Rail.

However, Officials from the Department for Transport have spoken to Network Rail's representatives to stress the points contained in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's letter of 28 May to Rick Haythornthwaite, chairman of Network Rail, emphasising the need for restraint on executive pay. This letter is available in the Library of the House.

Railways Stations: Bromsgrove

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take account of the level of funding per head from central Government between 2000 to 2010 for Bromsgrove district council and Worcestershire county council when determining the level of funding for Bromsgrove's new railway station. [6860]

Mrs Villiers: The Government do not make a link in the way proposed by the hon. Member between the funding for a particular project and the level of funding to the local authorities within which the project is located.

Railways: East of England

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring the East Anglia and Essex Thameside franchises into public ownership in March 2011 in order to ensure continuity of service for the London 2012 Olympics. [9584]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Government have no plans to bring the Greater Anglia and Essex Thameside franchises into public ownership. It is anticipated that these franchises will continue to be operated by private sector train operators under contract to Government, which will include provisions for ensuring continuity of service during the period of the Olympics.

Railways: Electrification

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the cost in 2010 prices of electrifying *(a)* the Great Western railway line from Swansea to London, *(b)* the North Wales coastline from Holyhead to Chester, *(c)* the Valley Lines Network, *(d)* the Severn Tunnel Diversionary Line and *(e)* lines to the West of Swansea (i) from Carmarthen to Swansea and (ii) from Carmarthen to Western terminus stations. [4390]

Mrs Villiers: In July 2009 the previous Government announced that the Great Western Main Line between London and Swansea, including the branches to Oxford and Newbury, would be electrified at a capital cost of £1 billion (in 2009 prices).

The Department for Transport has carried out a high-level analysis of the costs of further electrification in Wales, based on the length of the tracks and typical costs per mile of other recent electrification work. But a detailed estimate of cost based on the features specific to these routes, such as the number of structures needing modification and power supply requirements has not been made.

The Government support rail electrification as it helps to reduce carbon emissions and cut running costs. However, we are in the early stages of the new Government and Ministers are considering the full range of transport policy to ascertain what is affordable.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to increase the proportion of the rail network that is electrified. [9704]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail has commenced detailed design work for electrification of the Great Western Main Line, the Liverpool to Manchester line via Newton-le-Willows, and other routes in the north-west. Electrification of the line between Bromsgrove and Barnt Green is being delivered as part of Network Rail's settlement for Control Period 4 (2009-10 to 2013-14).

The Government support rail electrification as it helps to reduce carbon emissions and cut running costs. However, our priority is tackling the fiscal deficit and Ministers will consider the full range of proposed transport projects in parallel with the spending review process to ascertain what is affordable.

Railways: Finance

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will give precedence to railway infrastructure projects where funding was previously agreed by central and regional authorities over those where the project was identified but funding had not been agreed. [6863]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport will only be able to identify those major transport projects that can be supported and funded at the conclusion of the Government's spending review in the autumn. Decisions on the priority of individual projects will be taken at the conclusion of a review of all previously submitted projects at that time.

Railways: Franchises

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to alter the rail franchise bidding process so that the track record of the bidders is taken into account. [9533]

Mrs Villiers: The franchise bidding process takes account of bidders' previous experience and performance of operating passenger transport services and performance of relevant contracts.

Railways: Recycling

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the compliance of train operating companies with the provisions on recycling set out in their franchise agreements. [10282]

Norman Baker: Recycling provisions have only been included in the more recent franchise agreements. Compliance assessment of the Train Operating Companies is part of normal franchise management and monitoring.

Railways: Standards

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on *(a)* the punctuality and reliability of and *(b)* passengers travelling in excess numbers on rail services from London via (i) Bexleyheath and (ii) Crayford. [10438]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold disaggregated performance data for the Bexleyheath or Crayford to London route. However the following table shows the public performance measure (PPM) for all Southeastern services since November 2009. The Period PPM column shows performance in the period itself, while the PPM MAA column shows the moving annual average for the previous 12 months. PPM combines figures for punctuality and reliability into a single performance measure.

Period	*Period PPM*	*Percentage PPM MAA*
15 November-12 December 2009	86.5	91.1
13 December-9 January 2010	70	89.6
10 January-6 February 2010	84.1	89.1
7 February-6 March 2010	86.5	89.3
7 March-31 March 2010	91.8	89.4
1 April-1 May 2010	93	89.3
2 May-29 May 2010	91.4	89.2
30 May-26 June 2010	92.2	89.2

Information relating to passengers in excess numbers for rail services on either the Bexleyheath or Crayford to London route is not measured on the basis sought and is not available. The information requested is currently published annually in aggregated form by the Office of Rail Regulation within its "National Rail Trends Yearbook". The latest published data relates to passenger journeys in 2008-09. Chapter 7 of the latest update of "National Rail Trends" contains this data and is available on the Office for Rail Regulation website, at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

Roads: Death

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths there were in work-related road traffic incidents in each year from 1997 to 2009. [10516]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 471-2W.

Sea Rescue

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the construction and use requirements are for rescue boats to be classified by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as approved vessels. [8874]

Mike Penning: Rescue boats that are operated by commercial entities or where the organisation is not wholly voluntary are subject to the requirements of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Workboat Code (or the Police Boat Code if the boat is operated by a Police Authority).

There are no specific requirements relating to the construction or use of rescue boats used by wholly voluntary organisations which are not declared as facilities for Search and Rescue.

Declared facilities are facilities that have been designated as being available for civil maritime SAR according to a specific standard or set criteria as agreed with the MCA. The authority providing this facility is responsible for:

declaring the standard of capability and availability for each facility;

maintaining each facility to the standard and availability declared by the authority;

informing the appropriate Coastguard Rescue Co-ordination Centre when there is any change in the declared standard or availability of each facility;

informing the appropriate Coastguard Rescue Co-ordination Centre of any reason for not making available any facility which has been requested by the Coastguard.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Maritime and Coastguard Agency issues guidance to operators on the construction and use requirements of their rescue boats. [8901]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has produced a Rescue Boat Code which is in circulation in draft form. The draft code covers design, construction, inventory and operation and is considered to represent best practice when advising potential voluntary rescue boat operators and when assessing independent lifeboats that seek declared status as search and rescue (SAR) assets when they are being operated by wholly voluntary organisations.

Until the code is finalised, the MCA is willing to advise prospective operators on the standards it requires to include a rescue boat in the coordination of UKSAR.

Declared facilities are facilities that have been designated as being available for civil maritime SAR according to a specific standard or set criteria as agreed with the MCA. The authority providing this facility is responsible for:

declaring the standard of capability and availability for each facility;

maintaining each facility to the standard and availability declared by the authority;

informing the appropriate Coastguard Rescue Co-ordination Centre when there is any change in the declared standard or availability of each facility;

informing the appropriate Coastguard Rescue Co-ordination Centre of any reason for not making available any facility which has been requested by the Coastguard.

Thameslink Railway Line

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Streatham of 7 July 2010, on the Thameslink railway line, if he will ensure that Network Rail's interactive timetable for Thameslink is made available in the autumn of 2010; and if he will require Network Rail to consult on through services from the Wimbledon loop. [10124]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* I am not aware of any plans by Network Rail to produce an interactive timetable for the Thameslink programme this autumn.

Consultations on changes to train service patterns are undertaken by train operating companies under the terms of their franchise agreements.

TREASURY

Accelerated Development Zones

James Wharton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to undertake a trial of an accelerated development zone. [9324]

Danny Alexander: June's emergency Budget announced that the Government will publish a White Paper later in the summer setting out plans for a new approach to sub-national growth. The Accelerated Development Zone pilot scheme will be considered alongside other proposals as part of this process.

Aggregates Levy

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the aggregates levy tax to include peat. [10478]

Justine Greening: There are no current plans to extend the scope of the aggregates levy to include peat.

Allergies: Costs

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimates he has made of the cost to the UK economy of *(a)* absences from work due to allergies and *(b)* lost production due to allergies; [8766]

(2) what recent estimates he has made as to the cost of allergies to the UK economy. [8767]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* No such estimates have been made.

Coinage: Forgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the face value of counterfeit coins seized was in each year since 1997. [8859]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 164W.

The following counterfeit £1 coins have been returned to the Royal Mint:

Date	*Total withdrawals*
2003-04	85,000
2004-05	117,500
2005-06	84,500
2006-07	153,800
2007-08	97,000
2008-09	891,956
2009-10	1,973,000
2010-11 (to 30 June 2010)	187,000

The Treasury does not have figures on withdrawals prior to 2003, when the counterfeit rate was estimated to be less than 1%.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the face value of counterfeit coins in circulation. [8860]

Justine Greening: The most recent survey conducted by the Royal Mint found that its sample contained a £1 coin counterfeit rate of 2.81% or approximately £41 million.

The Royal Mint does not currently undertake regular surveys for other denominations. It is widely believed (by the Royal Mint, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and industry partners) that there is not a significant counterfeit issue with any other denominations.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of counterfeit *(a)* £1 and *(b)* £2 coins in circulation. [8862]

Justine Greening: The most recent survey conducted by the Royal Mint found that its sample contained a £1 coin counterfeit rate of 2.81%, or approximately £41 million.

The Royal Mint does not currently undertake regular surveys for other denominations. It is widely believed (by the Royal Mint, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and industry partners) that there is not a significant counterfeit issue with any other denominations.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Angela Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effects on levels of alcohol fraud of implementation of proposals to ban below-cost selling of alcohol. [9914]

Justine Greening: The impact on levels of alcohol fraud of a ban on below-cost selling would depend upon how any ban was introduced. The coalition agreement stated that we will ban the sale of alcohol below cost price, and we are currently developing options for doing this.

Angela Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are in place to track the movement of beer under duty suspense *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* to other EU member states. [9915]

Justine Greening: The movement of beer in duty suspension between EU member states is governed by EU Council Directive 2008/118/EC. This states that movements within the UK and EU must take place between approved businesses and must be accompanied by an administrative accompanying document or commercial equivalent document at all times. Once the goods have been received at their destination, the consignee must discharge the movement by returning a report of receipt to the consignor.

This system is in place to monitor and maintain the integrity of the duty suspension system. The UK applies various techniques to ensure that those approved to deal in duty-suspended excise goods comply with their legal obligations. For example, officers of HMRC will select specific consignments for verification and test with officials in the member state of destination whether or not those goods actually arrived in that member state.

Over the past eight years the UK has worked with counterpart revenue authorities on the development of the EU-wide Excise Movement and Control System. This provides an electronic system to replace the existing paper-based system and allows for monitoring the movement of excise goods in duty suspension within the EU. The system will be implemented in the UK and all member states by 1 January 2011.

Angela Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many seizures of alcohol for offences of alcohol fraud took place in each region in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; [9918]

(2) how many seizures of alcohol for offences of alcohol fraud there were in the first quarter of 2010-11; [9919]

(3) how many seizures of alcohol there were for offences of alcohol fraud in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; [9920]

(4) whether he plans to adopt the alcohol fraud strategy of the previous administration; what other steps he plans to take to reduce alcohol fraud; and if he will make a statement. [9921]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and UK Border Agency data on seizures of alcohol are captured and reported as a national figure, as set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of seizures*
2005-06	2,933
2006-07	2,189
2007-08	2,136
2008-09	2,095
2009-10	2,858
2010-11 (first quarter only)	593

Implementation of a comprehensive strategy to tackle alcohol fraud began on 1 April 2010, principally involving HMRC and the UK Border Force. The strategy is already yielding results, and the Government will continue to monitor its effectiveness and consider what, if any, additional steps are required to reduce alcohol fraud further.

Income Tax: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley who will pay no income tax as a result of the increase in personal allowance from April 2011; [9940]

(2) how many people resident in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley were in employment but below the income tax threshold in each of the last three years. [9941]

Mr Gauke: The personal allowance for under 65s will be increased by £1,000 in April 2011, with the gains limited to basic rate taxpayers. The Government estimate that the 880,000 lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether.

However, information at parliamentary constituency level is not available due to small survey sample sizes at this level of geography, and because estimates are based on the latest available 2007-08 survey data which would not be reliable for this purpose.

Available published information on income tax by parliamentary constituency based on the Survey of Personal Incomes 2007-08 can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

Estimates of numbers of employed persons earning below the income tax threshold are not available from HM Revenue and Customs data sources as these are fully representative of taxpayers only. Estimates from Office for National Statistics surveys would not be reliable due to small sample sizes associated with the specific information requested.

Available published information on the distribution of earnings by parliamentary constituency is provided in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statBase/product.asp?vlnk=13101

Job Creation: Private Sector

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology was used to estimate the number of private sector jobs forecast to be created in the next five years. [8249]

Danny Alexander: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Chairman of the Office for Budget Responsibility, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Sir Alan Budd, dated 20 July 2010:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) I have been asked to reply to your recent question:

What methodology was used to estimate the number of private sector jobs forecast to be created in the next five years.

The OBR does not forecast private sector employment separately. It forecasts total employment and general government employment. The difference between the two is market sector employment, which includes public sector corporations.

The OBR pre-Budget forecast document published on 14 June which can be found at on the OBR website provides details of OBR forecast methodologies. This document can be found at the follow web address:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.Uk/d/pre_budget_forecast_140610.pdf

The OBR forecasts that as GDP growth picks up above its assumed trend rate, employment rises. The economy forecast models employment on a whole economy basis.

The methodology for projecting general government employment is set out in detail in the OBR note published on 13 July 2010 at the below web link:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/general_gov_employment_forecast_130710.pdf

Maternity Payments

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers in Stirling constituency for a second or subsequent child in 2009-10. [8203]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

A total of 274,000 Sure Start maternity grants were awarded in Great Britain in 2009-10. The exact number of awards for a second or subsequent maternity is not available, but is estimated to be 52% of all awards, around 143,000.

The number of awards made in 2009-10 is available by Government office region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area only, not by constituency.

Note:

Both numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source for total number of awards:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Maternity Payments: Durham

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Sure Start maternity grants were made in City of Durham constituency to mothers for a second or subsequent child in 2009-10. [10057]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

A total of 274,000 Sure Start Maternity Grants were awarded in Great Britain in 2009-10. The exact number of awards for a second or subsequent maternity is not available, but is estimated to be 52% of all awards, around 143,000.

The number of awards made in 2009-10 is available by Government Office Region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area only, not by constituency.

Note:

Both numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:

For total number of awards: Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Personal Taxation

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has conducted any analysis of the effect of the direct personal tax and benefit measures in the June 2010 Budget on *(a)* men and *(b)* women; and whether he conducted any such analysis in the preparation of the Budget; [7217]

(2) whether his Department undertook an equality impact assessment of the effect on women of the tax and benefit measures in the June 2010 Budget. [7901]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has made an assessment of the effects on *(a)* men and *(b)* women of implementation of the tax and benefit changes announced in the June 2010 Budget; [8102]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the effects on *(a)* men and *(b)* women of the increase in the rate of value added tax. [8104]

Justine Greening: Departments are legally obliged in carrying out their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity. This is currently required in relation to gender, race and disability by the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The duty will extend to all forms of prohibited discriminatory conduct when the Equality Act 2010 comes into force. Departments must in their published equality schemes state how they intend to fulfil their duties and how they propose to assess the impact of policies on equality in the relevant areas. Whether or not a full equality impact assessment will be carried out in any case depends on the likely impact of a proposed policy on members of the relevant groups of people and whether it would be proportionate to do so. Such equality impact assessments as are considered to be appropriate and proportionate will be conducted for prospective areas for savings in the Department's budget.

Analysis of the overall Budget impact is undertaken at a household level, as benefits and tax credits are awarded based on family income. How households allocate their resources varies significantly and interactions between the tax and benefit system are complex. For this reason any gender analysis on a single set of assumptions will not be robust.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Health in Pregnancy grants were made in City of Durham constituency in 2009-10. [10058]

Mr Gauke: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Private Sector: Job Creation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the *(a)* evidence and *(b)* analysis underpinning the Office for Budget Responsibility's projections for private sector job creation in the period 2011-2016 published on 30 June 2010. [6671]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Chairman of the Office for Budget Responsibility, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Sir Alan Budd, dated 20 July 2010:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) I have been asked to reply to your recent question: For the (a) evidence and (b) analysis underpinning the Office for Budget Responsibility's projections for private sector job creation in the period 2011-2016 published on 30 June 2010.

The OBR does not produce projections for private sector job creation. The document published on 30 June 2010 provided the OBR's projections for whole economy employment and general government employment. The difference between the two (which is known as 'market sector employment') does not correspond precisely to private sector employment since it includes employment in the public corporations, which the OBR does not forecast.

The OBR pre-Budget forecast document published on 14 June provides details of OBR forecast judgements and methodologies. This document can be found on the OBR website at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/pre_budget_forecast_140610.pdf

The OBR Budget forecast document published on 22 June explains the Budget forecast, including whole economy employment, and can be found at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexc.pdf

The factors which influence the forecast for total employment include the growth of the total economy, labour productivity and labour costs.

The methodology for projecting general government employment is set out in detail in the OBR note published on 13 July 2010 at the below web link:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/general_gov_employment_forecast_130710.pdf

Public Expenditure

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are in place to ensure the accuracy of the allocation of Barnett consequentials; and if he will make a statement. [10070]

Danny Alexander: Full details of the operation of the Barnett Formula are set out in the Treasury publication Funding the Scottish Parliament, National

Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly: Statement of Funding Policy. The SFP can be accessed at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100407010852/http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_funding591.pdf

Public Expenditure: Per Capita Costs

David Mowat: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average amount of Government spending per person was in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Warrington in the latest period for which figures are available. [8701]

Danny Alexander: Information is not gathered at a constituency, city or town level. The annual Country and Regional Analysis exercise identifies expenditure per head by nine regions in England. We can provide data for the North West region.

Total identifiable expenditure per head for Scotland and the North West is as follows:

£ per head

	National Statistics					
	2004-05 outturn	*2005-06 outturn*	*2006-07 outturn*	*2007-08 outturn*	*2008-09 outturn*	*2009-10 plans*
North West	6,892	7,235	7,614	8,084	8,606	9,228
Scotland	7,552	8,183	8,545	9,011	9,412	10,083

Public Expenditure: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecast his Department has made of the effect of *(a)* the proposals in the 2010 Budget and *(b)* proposed changes to public expenditure on levels of public sector employment in (i) Wales and (ii) the Bridgend County Borough Council area in each of the next five years. [5941]

Danny Alexander: The Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) released further information on its employment forecast on 30 June 2010, which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national level.

Public Sector

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce project bank accounts as a standard arrangement for all public sector projects. [8374]

Danny Alexander: The Government have no plans to introduce project bank accounts as a standard arrangement for all public sector projects. It is for Departments to manage expenditure on projects within their departmental expenditure limits (DELs).

Public Sector: Audit

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on which organisations in receipt of Government funding have not had their accounts approved by auditors in each of the last three years. [9322]

Danny Alexander: The Department holds information on the audited resource accounts of central Government Departments and pensions schemes laid by the Treasury before the House of Commons.

The 2009-10 resource accounts for Departments and pension schemes are currently in the process of being laid, due to be completed by the summer parliamentary recess. Of the 19 accounts laid to date, none have received audit qualifications.

For the financial year 2008-09, six resource accounts received audit qualifications. They included, HM Treasury (excess vote), the Home Office (excess vote), the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (disagreement on accounting treatment and a regularity qualification), the Department for Work and Pensions (regularity qualification), the Ministry of Defence (regularity qualification and a limitation in audit scope) and the BERR United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Pension Scheme (excess vote).

For the financial year 2007-08, six resource accounts received audit qualifications. They included, the Department for Transport (excess vote), the Department for Work and Pensions (regularity qualification), the Ministry of Defence (limitation in audit scope), the Office of Fair Trading (excess vote), the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (limitation in audit scope), and the BERR United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Pension Scheme (excess vote).

The Department does not hold systematic information on the accounts of other central Government, NHS, or local government bodies. Information on these bodies should be available through the respective audit agencies, the NAO for central Government, or the Audit Commission for local government, and through the devolved Governments for entities falling within their remit.

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department provides to public bodies on provision of funding to organisations with accounts that have not been approved by auditors. [9323]

Danny Alexander: Guidance on provision of grants is contained in Managing Public Money (the standard guide to use of public funds in public sector organisations) Annex 5.1. The guidance explains that the Accounting Officer of the funder is responsible for ensuring that grant recipients are both eligible and will use the grant in the intended way.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether funds for the Regional Growth Fund have been drawn from the budget allocated to regional development agencies. [9951]

Danny Alexander: The funding arrangements for the Regional Growth Fund will be informed by the forthcoming spending review.

Rent a Room Scheme: Greater London

Jim Dowd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to increase the income threshold of the Rent a Room scheme in London. [9930]

Justine Greening: Rent-a-Room relief was considered in the Treasury consultation on the private rented sector, which closed in April. The Government will be publishing responses and responding shortly.

All taxes are kept under review, with any changes announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Taxation: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of people in Wimbledon constituency who will benefit from the increase in the threshold for basic rate income tax; and what his estimate is of the number of businesses which will benefit from the *(a)* increase in small business rate relief, *(b)* reduction in mainstream corporation tax rate and *(c)* reduction in small profits rate of corporation tax. [9953]

Mr Gauke: HMRC estimate that 23 million basic rate taxpayers (19 million from England) benefit from the income tax announcements made by the Government in the June 2010 Budget.

Information at parliamentary constituency level is not available due to small survey sample sizes at this level of geography, and because the information is based on the 2007-08 survey data which would not be reliable for this purpose.

Available information on income tax by parliamentary constituency based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2007-08) can be found in Table 3.15 'income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency' at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income distribution/menu.htm

The Department for Community and Local Government estimates that approximately 530,000 businesses in England will benefit from the temporary increase in small business rate relief (SBRR). Disaggregated information by region or parliamentary constituency is not available.

It is not possible to provide estimates of the number of businesses to benefit from the reduction in mainstream corporation tax rate and reduction in small profits rate of corporation tax at any regional level, including country.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

PIMS: Internet

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what steps the Commission *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that web links in PIMS are kept up to date; and if he will make a statement. [10569]

Sir Stuart Bell: Currently, when the answer to a parliamentary question contains a web link the PIMS record includes the text of that link but it is not an active hyperlink. Instead the PIMS record links to the question as it appears in *Hansard* on the website, where any URLs or web links contained in the answer are enabled.

A programme of work is under way to replace the PIMS system when it reaches the end of its life in 2012. This aims to enhance the search facilities available on the website and intranet while increasing the indexing and metadata contained in the online versions of parliamentary publications. This will remove the need for a separate information retrieval system, such as PIMS, to search for parliamentary content.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents of North Kent Criminal Justice System area are subject to antisocial behaviour orders. [9926]

Nick Herbert: The latest available published data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the Kent Criminal Justice System area on application, and the number issued following conviction is 77 and 137 respectively, a total of 214. Data on ASBOs collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

ASBOs can be of a fixed duration (for a minimum of two years) or made until further order. It is therefore not possible to determine from centrally collected data how many ASBOs are in force at a particular point in time except by reference to individual court files which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Borders: Personal Records

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on the e-borders programme of ending the second generation biometric passport programme; and if she will make a statement. [3818]

Mrs May *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The assessment of the UK Border Agency is that halting work on the next generation of biometric passports will have no impact on the operation of e-Borders as the e-Borders system uses biographic data not biometric data.

Control Orders

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many control orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in each of the last two years. [9766]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State reports to Parliament on the exercise of her powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 on a quarterly basis, and additionally on an ad hoc basis if required. I refer the hon. Member to the reports covering the last two years, dated 21 June 2010, 16 March 2010, 15 December 2009, 16 September 2009, 15 June 2009, 12 March 2009, 15 December 2008 and 15 September 2008.

As set out in these reports, in the period 11 June 2008 to 10 June 2009, seven new control orders were served of which three were in force for between six months and one year and four remained in force as at 10 June 2010 having been in force for between one and two years. In the period 11 June 2009 to 10 June 2010, four new control orders were served all of which remained in force as at 10 June 2010 with three of those having been in force for less than six months and three having been in force for between six months and one year.

These statements give as much information as we can provide about how many control orders were breached, with regard to national security and the risk of prejudicing any law enforcement interests.

Crime: Statistics

Mr Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 385-86W, what role *(a)* the National Statistician and *(b)* the UK Statistics Authority will have in the review of crime statistics. [9280]

Nick Herbert: We are determined to restore trust in crime statistics and are currently considering how they should be collected and published in future.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has recently met with Sir Michael Scholar, the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, to discuss the recommendations in the authority's recent report on improving trust in crime statistics. In considering what improvements can be made to how crime statistics are collected and published, we will carefully consider the views of both the authority and of the National Statistician.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7360]

Nick Herbert: Information on expenditure on office refurbishments since 1997 is not held centrally and to collate this information the Department would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of her Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate she has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to her Department of such attendance in each such year. [9053]

Nick Herbert: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. Departments do not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. There will have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates, which will be paid for by individual Departments. Civil servants attending the event will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by their Departments.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an estimate of the monetary value of the contracts between her Department and private sector companies which will be cancelled under her Department's planned spending reductions. [10166]

Nick Herbert: Work is currently under way across the Home Department to manage the process of reviewing, amending and where appropriate cancelling contracts. This process is expected to take between four and six months to complete.

The eventual final monetary value of any contracts amended through renegotiation or cancelled between the Department and private sector companies will be reported accordingly.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7611]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office website:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

underwent its first significant design in 2001. Design costs are not separately identifiable from that period. A major redesign was undertaken in 2005 costing £110,000. This subsequently underwent a minor redesign in 2008 costing £50,000.

The UK Border Agency website (www.ukba.home office.gov.uk—previously www.bia.home office.gov.uk and before that www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk) underwent a major redesign in 2007. The cost of the design was £28,000. The home page was redesigned in 2009 which cost £12,000. Costs prior to 2004 are not separately identifiable.

The Identity and Passport service cannot separately identify the costs of design work for their website:

www.ips.gov.uk

Criminal Records Bureau website:

www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk

had design costs of £65,000 in 2005-06 and £7,000 in 2009-10.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency cannot separately identify design cost for its website:

www.soca.gov.uk

prior to 2009-10 when design costs were £80,000.

The National Police Improvement Agency site:

http://www.npia.police.uk

uses mainly internal resource for website design. In 2009-10 £3,000 was spent on external design costs.

The IPCC's work in support of its external website:

www.ipcc.gov.uk/

is carried out in-house.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary redesigned its website:

www.hmic.gov.uk

in 2009/10 at a cost of £92,000

The SIA website:

www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk

was developed into a separate site in the 2004-05 financial year at a cost of £147,000. In 2005-06 design costs were £24,000, in 2007-08 £21,000, in 2008-09 £4,000, and in 2009-10 £101,000.

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal:

www.ipt-uk.com

design costs £2,000 in 2007, They are unable to separately identify design costs for its website from other costs before this date.

The independent Chief Inspector UK Border Agency site cannot separately identify the costs of design work for their website:

http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/

The Independent Safeguarding Authority cannot separately identify the costs of design work for their website:

www.isa-gov.org.uk

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) was created from April 2006. In terms of CEOP's online educational resources delivered under the strapline "ThinkuKnow", CEOP has spent £51,000 in 2007-08, £8,000 in2008-09 and £40,000 in 2009-10 on website design for:

www.ceop.gov.uk

and

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner site:

http://www.oisc.gov.uk

cost £85,000 in 2001-02, £44,000 in 2008-09 and £12,000 in 2009-10.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the last 12 months. [8825]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office spent approximately £536 maintaining its Twitter feed in the last 12 months.

The estimated staff costs are three hours per week of an Information Officer salary, since early May 2010.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in her Department are engaged in maintaining her Department's social media and networking sites; and what estimate she has made of the cost of employing such people in the last 12 months. [8826]

Nick Herbert: Two members of staff are authorised to manage the Home Office official departmental Twitter and Flickr feeds, which have been in operation since May 2010. One additional member of staff is authorised to manage the YouTube feed.

No other social media or networking sites are currently used. These are not full time jobs. Members of staff from the Home Office press office manage these systems.

The estimated staff costs for Twitter and Flickr are seven hours per week of an information officer salary, a cost of approximately £1,250 since May 2010.

The estimated staff costs for YouTube are approximately £938 over the last 12 months.

Social media has been used in marketing campaigns in the last 12 months but collating this spend would incur disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in the last 12 months. [8829]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office spent approximately £714 maintaining its Flickr feed in the last 12 months.

The estimated staff costs are four hours per week of an information officer salary, since early May 2010.

Departmental Legal costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7573]

Nick Herbert: The requested detail is not available for the years before 2005-06. The Department's and Agencies expenditure on legal advice is set out in the table.

These figures, expressed as thousands of pounds, include the direct cost to the Home Office of internal legal advice, litigation services provided by the Treasury Solicitor and legal services provided outside Government.

	Home Office	*Identity and Passport Services*	*Criminal Record Bureau*
2005-06	31,702	363	76
2006-07	27,272	766	63
2007-08	34,489	1,129	26
2008-09	32,067	3,386	97
2009-10	30,494	3,551	175

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which her Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if she will make a statement. [8296]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office exceeded the Lyons Review target of relocating 2,200 posts/staff out of London by 2010, two years early. We continue to look for opportunities to relocate staff to reduces costs and improve services. The Serious and Organised Crime Agency are planning to relocate 180 posts to a new hub in the North of England and 60 posts to its other hubs, including the west midlands.

As part of the spending review, the Home Office is considering future spending and the outcome will be announced in October. The Home Office, the Executive Agencies and NDPBs have no immediate plans to relocate more posts out of London or to the west midlands.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff her Department employed in each year since 1997. [8831]

Nick Herbert: Table 1 provides information for the Home Office headquarters (excluding it's agencies) on the numbers of employees who are full-time and part-time since 1999.

Table 2 provides the employment figures for 1997 and 1998 as we do not hold a breakdown of full-time and part-time staff for this period.

The Home Office has undergone a number of machinery of government changes over the period concerned. The Home Office headquarters included the Border and Immigration Agency (now the United Kingdom Border Agency) who became a shadow agency in May 2007, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) who moved to the newly-formed Ministry of Justice during 2007.

The information provided is based on data collated annually by the Office of National Statistics.

Table 1: Breakdown of full-time and part-time staff for 1999 to 2009—Home Office (excluding agencies)[1]

	Full-time	*Part-time*
1999[2]	7,500	950
2000[2]	8,760	1,180
2001[2]	12,220	1,570
2002[2]	13,600	1,850
2003[2]	16,440	2,200
2004[2]	18,220	2,530
2005[2]	19,560	3,300
2006[3]	21,560	3,730
2007[3]	2,430	330
2008[4]	2,440	320
2009[4]	2,720	340

[1] Number are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Survey reference date 1 April.
[3] Survey reference date 30 September.
[4] Survey reference date 31 March.

Source:
Mandate data collection and Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

Table 2: Headcount FTE for 1997 and 1998

HCFTE Permanent	*1997*	*1998*
Home Office excluding agencies	9,358	8,073

Note:
Data are as at 1 April each year
Source: Civil Service Statistics Reports on Cabinet Office Website
http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/stats-archive/archived-reports.aspx

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to analyse the distributional effect of the options for reductions in her Department's expenditure. [5242]

Nick Herbert: The Government set out in their document 'Spending Review Framework' that they will

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions." (2.4, page 7)

Further information will be available at the spending review.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in her Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in her Department. [7400]

Nick Herbert: One civil servant is employed to write speeches for the Home Secretary. Civil servants from across the Department are also involved as part of their duties in drafting ministerial speeches. Special advisers will also input on occasion.

Departmental Travel

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in her Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3201]

Nick Herbert: The nine members of the Home Office Board are entitled to the use of one car with a dedicated driver between them but this arrangement will cease at the end of the year. None of the Department's special advisers are entitled to the use of a car.

As was the case under previous Governments, all civil servants and special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances.

Domestic Violence: Immigration

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women have been granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK under the domestic violence rule *(a)* since the rule was introduced and *(b)* in the last 12 months. [10037]

Damian Green: Latest information shows that 2,530 women were granted indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom under the domestic violence rule since its introduction in 2002. Of these 710 were granted in 2009, the last year for which figures are available. The figure for 2009 is provisional and subject to change.

A range of immigration statistics for 2009 are due to be published in the Home Office bulletin "Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom, 2009" on 26 August 2010. Copies will be available in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Extradition

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will lead the review of extradition arrangements between the UK and the US administration; and what the terms of reference will be of that review. [8652]

Nick Herbert: In the Coalition's programme for government published on 20 May 2010, the Government stated that they will

> "[...] review the operation of the Extradition Act 2003—and the US/UK extradition treaty—to make sure it is even handed".

The Government are currently considering the review's terms of reference and an announcement will be made to Parliament as soon as possible.

Police

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on the level of service provided by front line policing of the proposed reductions in numbers of police civilian staff. [8847]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff engaged by each force are matters for the relevant chief constable and police authority.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procurement procedures each police force in England and Wales uses. [9271]

Nick Herbert: Police authorities have overall responsibility for the procurement procedures that each police force in England and Wales uses. Along with all public sector bodies in the UK these are subject to and governed by the EU procurement directives and UK procurement regulations that implement the directives.

The National Policing Improvement Agency, working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities, seeks to harmonise and standardise on best practice in police procurement to demonstrate and achieve value for money for the taxpayer. Best practice policy and templates are available for all forces to utilise on a secure shared facility.

Police Custody: Standards

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by the National Policing Improvement Agency on standards for custody suites; what assessment she has made of the cost to the public purse of compliance with this guidance; and if she will make a statement. [9929]

Nick Herbert: The Association of Chief Police Officer Guidance on the Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Police Custody was published in April 2006. A copy of this document has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

There has been no comprehensive assessment of the costs to police forces, associated with this guidance. Implementation of this guidance is a matter for individual chief constables.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* suspended on full pay from each police force in England and Wales in each of the last two years. [9268]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the following table:

Number of persons dismissed and suspended on full pay in each of the last two years by police force[1, 2]

	Dismissals		*Suspensions*[3]	
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	13	7	4	10
Bedfordshire	22	8	0	0
Cambridgeshire	13	11	2	6
Cheshire	13	7	17	25
Cleveland	5	6	0	0
Cumbria	5	8	0	0
Derbyshire	14	8	20	20
Devon and Cornwall	15	12	21	5
Dorset	12	9	0	14
Durham	6	13	7	5
Dyfed-Powys	4	4	14	3
Essex	17	9	26	9
Gloucestershire	2	1	4	1
Greater Manchester	28	24	80	104
Gwent	14	3	0	0
Hampshire	11	14	34	32
Hertfordshire	6	9	18	3
Humberside	6	6	0	2
Kent	15	15	24	26
Lancashire	14	18	15	21
Leicestershire	14	10	14	19
Lincolnshire	2	2	32	16
London, City of	3	0	8	14
Merseyside	22	21	37	30
Metropolitan Police	93	104	227	153
Norfolk	30	61	12	14
Northamptonshire	8	15	20	28
Northumbria	17	10	54	43
North Wales	3	5	6	2
North Yorkshire	10	17	0	0
Nottinghamshire	20	9	39	22
South Wales	14	10	54	30
South Yorkshire	8	6	32	23
Staffordshire	25	31	7	8
Suffolk	6	8	15	8
Surrey	30	42	0	4
Sussex	17	7	21	17
Thames Valley	35	35	2	14
Warwickshire	2	2	7	5
West Mercia	5	5	16	17
West Midlands	35	14	23	11
West Yorkshire	29	28	45	15
Wiltshire	7	6	7	1
Total	665	636	962	779

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Figures shown are for officers, staff, police community support officers, designated officers and traffic wardens.

[3] Figures on suspensions are those officers and staff recorded as being suspended on long-term absence at the end of the financial year. It is not possible to say whether or not they are on full pay.

Police: Durham

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has held with Durham police authority on changes to the number of police officers in Durham constabulary consequent on the reduction in police grant for 2010-11. [9994]

Nick Herbert: I have had no discussions with Durham police authority or Durham constabulary since the announcement of the police grant reductions.

The reductions should not impact on the frontline. Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff engaged by the police remain a matter for each chief constable, but we have made it clear that the frontline should remain strong and secure and we expect police authorities to look at how they spend their money and ensure that they are delivering a cost-effective service to achieve this.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the damping element of police grant will be paid to Durham constabulary for 2010-11. [9995]

Nick Herbert: Yes. Durham constabulary will receive £6.7 million damping support in 2010-11.

Police: Electronic Equipment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hand-held IT devices are in use in each police force in England and Wales. [9269]

Nick Herbert: The total number of hand held devices in police forces across England and Wales is 44,735 (including the Serious Organised Crime Agency and ACPO Terrorism and Allied Matters). The table shows the total number of mobile devices in each police force in England and Wales.

Number of hand-held devices in each police force in England and Wales

Police force area	*Number of devices*
Avon and Somerset	1,568
Bedfordshire	1,450
Cambridgeshire	1,550
Cheshire	1,200
City of London	163
Cleveland	1,200
Cumbria	66

Number of hand-held devices in each police force in England and Wales

Police force area	*Number of devices*
Derbyshire	492
Devon and Cornwall	0
Dorset	137
Durham	120
Essex	2,877
Gloucestershire	0
Greater Manchester	1,014
Hampshire	306
Hertfordshire	2,156
Humberside	648
Kent	2,670
Lancashire	3,002
Leicestershire	903
Lincolnshire	800
Merseyside	1,400
Metropolitan Police	2,000
Norfolk	0
North Yorkshire	578
Northamptonshire	995
Northumbria	0
Nottinghamshire	2,185
South Yorkshire	850
Staffordshire	2,300
Suffolk	0
Surrey	260
Sussex	0
Thames Valley	1,200
Warwickshire	46
West Mercia	0
West Midlands	78
West Yorkshire	3,400
Wiltshire	1,164
England	38,778
North Wales	1,760
Dyfed Powys	11
Gwent	900
South Wales	1,100
Wales	3,771
	36
ACPO Terrorism and Allied Matters (TAM)	
British Transport Police	1,350
SOCA	800
England and Wales	44,735

Police: Employment Tribunals

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were the subject of employment tribunals in 2009. [8886]

Nick Herbert: Forces are responsible for dealing locally with employment tribunals. We do not collect these data centrally.

Police: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has provided to police authorities on the likely percentage change in their budgets in the next four years. [8846]

Nick Herbert: Future funding will be addressed in the spending review in October 2010.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average proportion of police force funding spent as *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue in each of the last 10 years. [8848]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The information requested is available in the House of Commons Library, in the Statistics Resource Unit under Police Statistics Actuals.

Police: Grants

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide financial support to police authorities which have had their grant for 2010-11 reduced and which have *(a)* below-average council tax yields and *(b)* low tax bases. [10148]

Nick Herbert: No. The £125 million core Government reductions have been calculated so that each police authority will face a reduction equivalent to the same percentage (1.5%) of their core Government funding. This means that each police authority will face a fair share of the reduction.

Government funding for the police will still increase by £124 million over last year.

Police: Manpower

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police constables, *(b)* sergeants, *(c)* inspectors, *(d)* police community support officers and *(e)* support staff there are in each police force in England and Wales. [9266]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the following table:

Police officer, staff, community support officers strength, as at 31 March 2009 by police force area[1], England and Wales

Number

Police force	*Inspector*	*Sergeant*	*Constable*	*Police staff*[2]	*PCSO*
Avon and Somerset	175	502	2,589	2,176	381
Bedfordshire	60	175	970	764	122
Cambridgeshire	88	247	1,065	990	195
Cheshire	125	360	1,644	1,480	234
Cleveland	76	249	1,391	725	198
Cumbria	63	178	1,009	811	107
Derbyshire	104	322	1,656	1,288	205
Devon and Cornwall	184	587	2,708	1,790	362
Dorset	88	236	1,138	984	156
Durham	86	231	1,236	925	171
Essex	145	504	2,757	2,087	446
Gloucestershire	74	197	1,058	708	161
Greater Manchester	358	1,160	6,536	3,861	782
Hampshire	202	646	2,860	2,352	325
Hertfordshire	126	320	1,662	1,549	256

Police officer, staff, community support officers strength, as at 31 March 2009 by police force area[1], England and Wales

Number

Police force	*Inspector*	*Sergeant*	*Constable*	*Police staff*	*PCSO*
Humberside	112	327	1,607	1,404	321
Kent	194	523	2,975	2,430	390
Lancashire	195	614	2,857	1,982	437
Leicestershire	115	355	1,833	1,218	228
Lincolnshire	67	165	968	816	153
London, City of	58	134	585	297	48
Merseyside	234	677	3,479	2,221	442
Metropolitan Police	1,772	5,855	24,215	14,177	4,594
Norfolk	84	264	1,270	1,072	277
Northamptonshire	68	212	1,002	1,151	168
Northumbria	182	608	3,216	2,068	259
North Yorkshire	83	269	1,072	1,095	173
Nottinghamshire	124	420	1,799	1,505	243
South Yorkshire	152	453	2,375	2,120	328
Staffordshire	112	372	1,669	1,315	236
Suffolk	72	215	957	868	160
Surrey	108	303	1,397	1,732	206
Sussex	184	516	2,409	2,080	399
Thames Valley	207	656	3,347	2,897	517
Warwickshire	52	134	773	688	143
West Mercia	132	400	1,869	1,722	272
West Midlands	382	1,108	7,002	3,570	812
West Yorkshire	294	796	4,621	3,483	761
Wiltshire	77	188	923	854	135
Dyfed-Powys	66	189	908	633	82
Gwent	76	228	1,093	855	139
North Wales	83	274	1,184	823	159
South Wales	162	496	2,397	1,728	325
Total of all 43 forces	7,398	22,664	110,080	79,296	16,507

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Police staff excludes designated officers, traffic wardens and police community support officers.

Police: Pay

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average annual salary was for police officers based in *(a)* north Kent and *(b)* the Metropolitan police district in the latest period in which figures are available. [6841]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not currently collect data from police forces on the pay of individual police officers, and does not hold information on average salary for police officers based in North Kent and the Metropolitan police.

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average salary was of a police officer in *(a)* the Thames Valley and *(b)* the Metropolitan police area in the latest period for which figures are available. [7073]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not currently collect data from police forces on the pay of individual police officers, and does not hold information on average salary for police officers based in Thames Valley and the Metropolitan police.

Police: Sick Leave

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days sick leave were taken by *(a)* police constables, *(b)* sergeants, *(c)* inspectors, *(d)* police community support officers and *(e)* support staff in each police force in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [9267]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the following table. The latest available period is the financial year 2008-09. Figures are collected centrally as hours lost to sickness and are only broken down in to 'police officers' and 'all police staff'.

Total contracted hours lost to sickness, by police force, 2008-09[1, 2, 3]

Number

	All police staff	*Police officers*
Avon and Somerset	260,928	317,150
Bedfordshire	70,132	90,826
Cambridgeshire	88,268	116,197
Cheshire	111,190	113,254
Cleveland	68,212	101,653
Cumbria	78,621	83,958
Derbyshire	82,072	134,960
Devon and Cornwall	199,253	257,557
Dorset	91,909	107,349
Durham	66,271	109,677
Dyfed-Powys	37,784	57,403
Essex	213,384	246,184
Gloucestershire	73,215	103,205
Greater Manchester	353,729	524,989
Gwent	83,161	147,317
Hampshire	196,680	242,568
Hertfordshire	151,945	176,399
Humberside	110,427	110,997
Kent	192,391	243,886
Lancashire	155,294	188,447
Leicestershire	98,886	117,227
Lincolnshire	77,665	95,704
London, City of	23,909	36,197
Merseyside	197,316	301,056
Metropolitan Police	1,208,950	1,727,755
Norfolk	95,796	123,653
Northamptonshire	74,065	62,458
Northumbria	147,453	268,203
North Wales	63,209	106,006
North Yorkshire	95,973	123,104
Nottinghamshire	155,372	174,299
South Wales	134,192	293,434
South Yorkshire	213,912	221,364
Staffordshire	131,584	189,389
Suffolk	—	—
Surrey	134,050	122,932

Total contracted hours lost to sickness, by police force, 2008-09[1, 2, 3]

	All police staff	Number Police officers
Sussex	217,044	229,711
Thames Valley	220,804	266,064
Warwickshire	63,226	100,394
West Mercia	160,629	168,618
West Midlands	266,137	464,709
West Yorkshire	289,576	403,193
Wiltshire	93,387	108,914

[1] Figures are provisional and have not been verified by forces.
[2] Figures on sickness absence are collected as hours lost.
[3] Figures are only collected centrally broken down in to 'police officers' and 'all police staff. Therefore no further rank breakdowns can be provided.

Security Services

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission research into the level of public trust in the security service. [8817]

Nick Herbert: The Government do not consider such research to be a priority for scarce resources at this time. The Prime Minister, in a statement on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 175, noted that public confidence in the security services was being eroded by allegations of their complicity in mistreatment of detainees carried out by other countries, and set out the steps which the Government intend to take to remedy this situation.

Sexual Offences

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to amend the National Police Records (Recordable Offences) Regulations 2000 to provide for police powers to take DNA and fingerprint evidence in respect of offences contrary to section 51A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. [9599]

Nick Herbert: We have recently been made aware of the absence of this offence from the National Police Records (Recordable Offences) Regulations 2000. We are considering how and when this can be corrected.

Terrorism

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* charges were made and *(b)* prosecutions were brought consequent on discoveries following searches undertaken under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the likely change in the number of such charges and prosecutions following her changes to guidance on the use of such powers. [8482]

Nick Herbert: In relation to the number of charges and prosecutions brought against individuals following a search under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000, the Home Office does not collate statistics to show these incidences. There will be no further stop and searches of pedestrians under section 44(2) as police officers will now be using alternative powers under section 43. Stops and searches under section 44(1) of vehicles and their occupants will continue; however, reasonable suspicion will be required for the exercise of this power. The oral statement of 8 July 2010 set out the changes to the use of this power.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were stopped and searched under the provisions of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each of the last five years. [8807]

Nick Herbert: The total number of stop and searches under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 for the years between 2005 and 2009 is as follows:

	Number of stop and searches
2004-05	37,000
2005-06	50,000
2006-07	42,800
2007-08	126,500
2008-09	210,000

These data are available in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Police Powers and Procedures 2008/09 (published on 15 April 2010), at the following link:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0610.pdf

Data from 2009-10 are not yet available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on detention conditions in US prison establishments at Bagram in Afghanistan; how many individuals apprehended by British forces have been rendered to US detention facilities in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [9927]

Alistair Burt: The Government maintain an ongoing dialogue with US colleagues on a range of detention-related matters, including detention conditions.

Two individuals were captured by UK forces in and around Baghdad during a security operation conducted in February 2004. They were transferred to US detention, in accordance with normal practice, and subsequently moved to a US detention facility in Afghanistan. The individuals transferred to Afghanistan are members of Lashkar-e-Taiba, a proscribed organisation with links to al-Qaeda.

Andrei Lugovoi

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Department's officials in the Russian Federation on Andrei Lugovoi. [8774]

Mr Lidington: I last discussed this issue with our ambassador to Russia, Anne Pringle, during her visit to London in the week of 5 July 2010. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I receive regular advice from our embassy in Moscow on this and the whole range of issues relating to the Government's policy towards Russia.

Asia and East Africa: Water

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on water rights and allocations *(a)* between the Nile states and *(b)* in Asia. [9813]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received two formal written representations from the Egyptian Government on water rights and allocation between Nile states in connection with the Nile Basin Initiative. The Egyptian Government have also raised the Nile Basin Initiative with officials.

In the responses, the Government have emphasised that they would welcome a broad multilateral solution, which addressed the main concerns of all Nile Basin Initiative countries. The Nile Basin Initiative is an appropriate framework for settling differences between upstream and downstream countries.

The Government are an active participant in the donor group to support the Nile Basin Initiative.

The Foreign Secretary has not received any recent representations on water rights and allocations in Asia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [9966]

Mr Lidington: The security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is assessed as calm and stable. The recent commemorations of the fifteenth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre passed off without serious incident. However in an incident on 27 June 2010, a police officer was killed and another injured in a bomb attack on a police station in Bugojno (central BiH). The BiH Government—along with the Peace Implementation Council and the EU—publicly condemned the attack in the strongest terms and urged the relevant authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice. More broadly the Government have serious concerns about the political dynamics and continued nationalist tensions in BiH. In this context the presence of the EU military mission continues to play a crucial role underpinning stability.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens were murdered while abroad in each of the last five years. [10316]

Alistair Burt: The following figures are the numbers of British nationals that have come to our attention as having been murdered while abroad in each of the last four years:

	Number
2006-07	70
2007-08	89
2008-09	65
2009-10	58

These figures are taken from our casework database, which is used to record all consular assistance casework. Prior to 2006 we had no centralised database and do not have reliable data earlier than April 2006.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the operation of his Department's Low Carbon, High Growth programme. [8578]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received three representations. The first from the right hon. Member for South Shields (David Miliband); the second from the noble Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean; and the third, a representation from Members of both Houses who are members of the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE).

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on climate change programmes in 2009; and how much he expects it to spend on such programmes in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [8579]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £18.93 million on Low Carbon High Growth Strategic Programme Fund projects in the 2009-10 financial year. £14.2 million has been allocated to the programme for the current (2010-11) financial year. All FCO funding beyond the current financial year is subject to the outcome of the spending review. However, as my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stated in his written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, the FCO is exploring alternative sources of funding for this particular programme for future years.

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how his Department plans to secure alternative sources of funding for its Low Carbon, High Growth programme. [8595]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stated in his written ministerial statement to the House on 29 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 37-38WS, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is exploring alternative sources of funding for this programme for future years. These discussions are ongoing and a further statement will be made once they are complete and a final decision on the future funding of the Programme has been taken.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much his Department spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in the last 12 months; [8834]

(2) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in the last 12 months; [8841]

(3) how many people in his Department are engaged in maintaining his Department's social media and networking sites; and what estimate he has made of the cost of employing such staff in the last 12 months; [8843]

(4) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the last 12 months. [8844]

Alistair Burt: Digital social media channels, such as Flickr, Twitter and Youtube, are run by the proprietors of those websites. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is not charged for the use of these sites which results in a cost-saving to the department as we are able to utilise their free hosting services for otherwise expensive media storage.

The FCO expects staff in all functions and grades to use a range of digital media—including the social web—to publish, carry out research and engage with peers, partners and the public. Our centralised digital team can advise staff on use of the social web but no one member of staff is allocated to manage Flickr, Twitter or Youtube and responsibility for social media channel management is devolved across the FCO. As a result, information on the specific numbers of staff and their costs could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Residences

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what residential properties maintained by his Department have been *(a)* refurbished and *(b)* redecorated since the Government came to office; and at what cost in each case. [9223]

Alistair Burt: This response refers only to the self contained accommodation on the second and third floors of 1 Carlton Gardens. The remainder of the building is classified as Non Residential

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has undertaken no refurbishment of the residential property at 1 Carlton Gardens since the Government came to office.

Some essential maintenance and redecoration work has been undertaken in accordance with lease obligations and as a result of recommendations highlighted in the Quadrennial Inspection of 2009. This includes maintenance work to some ceilings and walls to repair identified cracks and damage caused by significant water ingress and previous repairs. A number of window frames identified as rotten have also been repaired.

The cost of this maintenance work to the FCO is £3,437.

The cost of other redecoration and refurbishment work, aside from this essential maintenance, undertaken in the residential accommodation as a result of my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's occupancy has been met by him personally.

EU Accession

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the accession of *(a)* Turkey, *(b)* Iceland and *(c)* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the EU. [8544]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I engage regularly with our EU counterparts on the progress of accession negotiations with Turkey, Iceland and Croatia, and EU enlargement to the Western Balkans, including Macedonia. We discussed these issues for example, at the 2 June 2010 High Level meeting between Western Balkan and EU Foreign Ministers in Sarajevo and at, or in the margins of, the 14 June 2010 General and Foreign Affairs Council in Luxembourg.

Israel: Educational Exchanges

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on expansion of the British-Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership for its next round. [10352]

Alistair Burt: We have committed £10,000 to the British-Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership (BIRAX) for this financial year which is an increase on previous spends. BIRAX is an important scheme and while we are unable to confirm funding for the next financial year we hope that we will be able to continue to support this initiative.

Nuclear Weapons

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer by the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert) of 23 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 291 by the Prime Minister, whether the options considered under his Department's policy on multilateral disarmament include relinquishing the UK nuclear deterrent; and if he will make a statement. [9878]

Alistair Burt: Our nuclear deterrent continues to play an important role in ensuring our national security. Large arsenals of nuclear weapons remain, and the risk of nuclear proliferation continues. Our judgment is that only a credible nuclear capability can provide the necessary guarantee to our security. The Government therefore share a commitment to the maintenance of the UK's national nuclear deterrent, based on the ballistic missile submarine system.

The Government are committed to the long-term vision of a world without nuclear weapons and to fulfilling our disarmament obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The Government have pledged to press for multilateral disarmament and we will continue to work to create a safer and more stable world where the UK and others are able to relinquish their nuclear weapons.

Trinidad and Tobago: Capital Punishment

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on capital punishment with the government of Trinidad and Tobago. [10486]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not yet had a meeting with representatives of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and our high commission in Port of Spain maintain an ongoing discussion with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on human rights issues, including capital punishment.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9246]

Chris Grayling: It is Government and departmental policy to pay in arrears after the goods or services have been satisfactorily provided and to pay promptly. DWP is a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code which aims to encourage good practice throughout the supply chain. DWP is committed to paying invoices within 10 days of receipt of a valid invoice. However the terms of the standard departmental contract state that payment will be within 30 days. Suppliers have a contractual requirement to pay subcontractors on these same standard terms.

As there is not currently a contractual requirement for suppliers to pay subcontractors within 10 working days DWP does not monitor or record the time taken by contractors to pay invoices of their subcontractors under prompt payment arrangements.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9658]

Chris Grayling: A guide to the style to be used for ministerial correspondence is available on the Department's intranet site. In addition the offices of the Secretary of State and the Minister for Disabled People have issued guidance notes on submissions, briefings and speeches. I am placing copies of all of this material in the Library.

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8298]

Chris Grayling: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department during (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8223]

Chris Grayling: A breakdown of ministerial UK travel expenses for May and June is as follows:

		£
Minister	*May*	*June*
Iain Duncan Smith	0.00	269.70
Steve Webb	0.00	165.06
Chris Grayling	355.28	557.57
Maria Miller	0.00	504.28
Lord Freud	0.00	20.36

The figures in the table do not include the cost of the use by Ministers of the Government Car Service.

As set out in the Ministerial Code, Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Disability Living Allowance

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of decisions on applications for disability living allowance were *(a)* appealed and *(b)* reversed on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [8646]

Maria Miller: The information for 2009-10 is in the following table:

	Number/ percentage
Total DLA decisions made	957,000
DLA appeals heard by the Tribunal Service	51,000
DLA appeals heard by the Tribunal Service expressed as a percentage of DLA decisions made	5,3
DLA appeals found in the customers favour	21,000
DLA appeals found in the customers favour expressed as a percentage of DLA appeals heard by the Tribunal Service	41.2
DLA appeals found in the customers favour expressed as a percentage of the total DLA decisions made	2.2

During 2009-10 the number of DLA decisions heard by the Tribunal Service was 5.3% of the total DLA decisions made.

In 41.2% of DLA appeals heard during the same period, the Tribunal Service found in the customers favour. This equates to 2.2% of the total DLA decisions made during 2009-10.

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children with autism have received disability living allowance in each of the last 10 years. [8748]

Maria Miller: The information is not currently available in the format requested. Autism is included as one of a group of disabling conditions within the main disabling condition of learning difficulties. The information for disability living allowance in payment for learning difficulties for adults and children in each of the last 10 years is set out in the table.

Medical condition: Learning difficulties

	Under 16	*16 and Over*
November 2000	61,000	162,000
November 2001	63,600	167,600
November 2002	68,000	174,300
November 2003	69,700	180,100

Medical condition: Learning difficulties

	Under 16	*16 and Over*
November 2004	72,600	185,900
November 2005	75,100	190,500
November 2006	79,400	197,700
August 2007	83,000	203,200
November 2008	102,500	218,100
November 2009	117,400	230,400

Notes:

1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Learning difficulties includes the following disabling conditions:

'F86'—'Down's Syndrome',
'F87'—'Fragile X syndrome',
'F90'—'Other Learning Disability',
'F91'—'Autism',
'F92'—'Asperger Syndrome',
'F94'—'Retts Disorder'

5. November 2007 data are not available so August 2007 has been used instead.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of each *(a)* component and *(b)* level of disability living allowance there are in (i) England, (ii) Wales and (iii) Carmarthen East and Dinefwr constituency. [9367]

Maria Miller: The information requested is as follows:

DLA cases in payment by mobility award type: November 2009

	DLA rate of mobility as paid			
	All	*Higher*	*Lower*	*Nil rate*
England	2,536,110	1,421,620	774,550	339,940
Wales	240,710	154,150	56,560	29,990
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	5,930	4,110	1,130	690

DLA cases in payment by care award type: November 2009

	DLA rate of care as paid				
	All	*Higher*	*Middle*	*Lower*	*Nil rate*
England	2,536,110	577,000	851,670	706,790	400,660
Wales	240,710	60,270	66,120	71,370	42,940
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	5,930	1,480	1,420	1,840	1,190

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary Constituency used are for the Westminster parliament for May 2010.
3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended for example if they are in hospital.
4. Recipients can be in receipt of both DLA care and mobility.
5. 'Nil rate', shows the number of cases where there is entitlement to the care component but not to the mobility component, and cases where there is entitlement to the mobility component but not to the care component. Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Disability Living Allowance: Greater London

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency. [9879]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency: Hornchurch and Upminster

	Number
IB/SDA	2,880
ESA	540
DLA	4,160

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5: IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Disability Living Allowance: Stirling

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Stirling constituency are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment support allowance. [9837]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

Stirling parliamentary constituency	*Number*
IBSDA	3,260
ESA	630
DLA	4,730

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Case load for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, ie 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those who applied for employment and support allowance failed to complete the application process in each of the last five years. [10386]

Chris Grayling: Employment and support allowance was introduced on 27 October 2008.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the work capability assessment—including statistics for those who failed to complete the Employment and Support Allowance application process. The statistics were last updated in April 2010 and published in the report "Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment: Official Statistics: April 2010", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The report is also available on the internet at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

Employment: Wales

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to improve employment prospects for 18 to 24 year olds in *(a)* North Wales and *(b)* rural communities. [8720]

Chris Grayling: The Government are committed to tackling young unemployment. Young people in North Wales, and more rural communities generally, can access a range of support and advice to help them find employment.

Through Jobcentre Plus, young people have access to a named personal adviser from day one of their claim. They work with the jobseeker to create a personalised back-to-work plan. This support continues throughout the jobseeker's spell of unemployment. At six months of unemployment, young people are guaranteed an offer of a job, training or work experience.

Funeral Payments: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value of funeral payments reclaimed in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough was in each year since 2000. [8216]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the table. Information at borough level is unavailable.

Funeral payment recovery amount by financial year

	West Midlands (£ million)
2003-04	0.20
2004-05	0.23
2005-06	0.23
2006-07	0.17
2007-08	0.07
2008-09	0.13
2009-10	0.04

Notes:

1. The West Midlands has been interpreted as the Government Office Region of that name.
2. The information above is for Funeral Payment claims recovered in full or in part.
3. The amount of Funeral Payments recovered has been rounded to the nearest £0.01 million.
4. Data for 2000-01 to 2002-03 for the West Midlands Government Office Region is not available, because one Social Fund district then straddled the border between the West Midlands and the East Midlands Government Office Regions. (Data is only available by Social Fund district.)

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Future Jobs Fund: Dudley

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding has been allocated from the Future Jobs Fund to organisations in *(a)* Dudley borough and *(b)* Dudley North constituency. [8414]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Housing Benefit

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age who are (i) employed and (ii) unemployed, *(c)* social sector tenants and *(d)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Edinburgh East constituency. [8190]

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants receiving housing benefit in City of Durham constituency. [8467]

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants receiving housing benefit in Newport East constituency. [8477]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

The available information on Housing Benefit recipients is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_jul10.xls

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the Housing Benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of non-dependants living in households in Edinburgh East constituency where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit. [8191]

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in City of Durham constituency. [8469]

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency. [9624]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of proposed changes to housing benefits on the number of people moving home in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [9389]

Steve Webb: We will publish an impact assessment for the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates on 23 July 2010.

This impact assessment will not include a specific breakdown of number of people who may have to move home as a result of the proposed changes. However, the Department is working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the devolved Administrations and local authorities to continue to assess the impact, to ensure an effective implementation of these measures and to provide support for those people who will be affected by the changes.

We are developing the detailed policy design of the other housing benefit changes announced in the Budget. We shall publish impact assessments to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament and are investigating the scope for publishing sooner.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of proposed changes to the level of housing benefit announced in the June 2010 Budget on levels of homelessness in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [illegible]

Steve Webb: We are working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations to assess the impacts of the proposed changes to housing benefit, including looking at ways to minimise any risk of adverse impacts on local authorities' homelessness prevention strategies.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new housing benefit claims were made in each local authority area in England in the latest year for which figures are available. [10562]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information has been placed in the Library and can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_flows_may10.xls

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average payment from local housing allowance in each local authority for *(a)* a shared room, *(b)* a single room, *(c)* a one bed property, *(d)* a two bed property, *(e)* a three bed property, *(f)* a four bed property and *(g)* a five bed property was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [10563]

Steve Webb: We are currently updating our estimate of the average payment from local housing allowance in each local authority by bedroom entitlement. Following quality assurance, this updated estimate will be included in the impact assessment of the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates. The Department will publish this on 23 July 2010.

Housing Benefit: Edinburgh

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the level of under-occupation in social sector housing in Edinburgh East constituency in which the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [8192]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. The Department for Work and Pensions does not collect information on dwelling size for all Housing Benefit recipients.

Housing Benefit: Homelessness

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of homelessness of his proposed changes to the housing benefit system. [10390]

Steve Webb: We are working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations to assess the impacts of the proposed changes to housing benefit, including looking at ways to minimise any risk of adverse impacts on local authorities' homelessness prevention strategies.

Housing Benefit: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* Houghton and Sunderland South constituency; and how many are (i) not of working age, (ii) in work and (iii) not in work. [9319]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the table. Information on whether a claimant of housing benefit is in employment or not in employment is not available.

Housing benefit (HB) claimants in Sunderland city council area by under 65/65 and over: as at April 2010

	Number
All HB claimants	31,210
Claimants under 65	21,030
Claimants 65 and over	10,180

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Data are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. April 2010 represents the latest data held.
4. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either: (a) the recipient if they are single, or (b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE).

The information is not available at the constituency level.

The available information on Housing Benefit recipients is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_jun10.xls

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Housing Benefit: Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities have made representations to his Department on the effects of proposed changes to housing benefit and local housing allowance on temporary accommodation. [10021]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions has received one letter from Westminster city council that includes a question about the effects of proposed changes to housing benefit and local housing allowance on housing benefit subsidy for people living in temporary accommodation.

We have also received some informal queries from officials in various local authorities seeking clarification around future housing benefit subsidy levels for people living in temporary accommodation.

Housing Benefit: Vulnerable Adults

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to mitigate the negative effects on vulnerable people of reductions in entitlement to housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [9553]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions will provide practical support for local authorities and welfare advisers to ensure that a comprehensive and consistent communication strategy is developed for people in receipt of housing benefit who may face a reduction in entitlement.

The Government will provide additional funding for discretionary housing payments. This will be an additional £10 million in 2011-12 and £40 million a year thereafter. This will help local authorities target additional funding to those customers who they feel need the most support.

The Department is working with other Government Departments and the devolved Administrations to explore strategies that can be adopted to ease the process for households seeking and moving to alternative accommodation.

Independent Living 2006 Fund

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the new eligibility criteria for support from the Independent Living Fund do not disadvantage carers of community care service users formerly eligible to apply for support from the fund; [8491]

(2) if he will take steps to reduce the *(a)* financial and *(b)* time burden on the parents and carers of school leavers formerly eligible for support from the Independent Living Fund; [8492]

(3) if he will take steps to prevent parents and carers of school leavers formerly eligible for grants from the Independent Living Fund from leaving paid employment to become full-time carers. [8493]

Maria Miller: The Independent Living Fund is a discretionary fund subject to strict budgetary limits. There is no statutory entitlement to Independent Living Fund funding and there has never been any guarantee that funding can be provided in any particular case. Local authority social service departments will already be engaged with individuals and statutory responsibility for assessing and delivering essential care remains with local authorities.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most estimate is of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Edinburgh East constituency. [8194]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 70 lone parents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Edinburgh East.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Pensions: Uprating

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average change in the level of private pensions of increasing them in line with the consumer price index in 2011-12. [9221]

Steve Webb: The median occupational pension in payment is around £70 a week.

The impact on individuals of the proposal to base the statutory minimum for increases in private occupational pensions on the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index will depend on factors such as the pension scheme's rules and when the individual's pension rights were accrued.

In 2011-12 some pensioner members are likely to experience no change as a result of the proposal to alter the method of uprating applied, and some pensioner members are likely to have their pensions increased by around 1 percentage point less due to using the consumer prices index as the basis for indexation rather than the retail prices index.

Poverty: Children

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in workless households in Great Yarmouth constituency in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [9175]

Maria Miller: The requested data are not available for 1997, 2009 and 2010. The latest available data are for the year 2008. Data for constituency level information only go back to 2004.

In 2008, there were estimated to be 3,200 children living in workless households in Great Yarmouth. In 2004, there were estimated to be 3,700 children living in workless households in Great Yarmouth. These figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

It is important to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the Household Annual Population Survey (HAPS) are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimate is based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for this estimate and the figure is deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty *(a)* before housing costs and *(b)* after housing costs in the Great Yarmouth constituency in each year since 2000. [9177]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the households below average income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for East of England are set out in the following table.

Number and percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income for the East of England, before housing costs and after housing costs

	Number of children (million) and percentage			
	Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Period	Number (million)	Percentage	Number (million)	Percentage
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.2	15	0.3	23
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.2	15	0.3	23
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.2	15	0.3	23
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.2	16	0.3	24
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2	15	0.3	25
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.2	15	0.3	26
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.2	16	0.3	26

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the HBAI series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both of these are available in the Library.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for HBAI figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication HBAI series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the HBAI series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of adults and children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Measures of income poverty at constituency level are available with National Indicator 116. This indicator shows the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits, or tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% median income.

Due to methodological differences to the HBAI publication, these small area estimates are not directly comparable with national or regional figures. National Indicator 116 does not necessarily capture all those, or only those, children living in households below the 60% of median threshold.

Published data for Great Yarmouth constituency are set out in the following table.

Number and proportion of children living in families in receipt of income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance, or tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of median income, Before Housing Costs, in Great Yarmouth

As at August each year	Number of children	Percentage of children
2006	4,835	23.9
2007	5,065	24.9

Income measures do not necessarily capture all aspects of poverty or inequality facing children and their families and the Government are committed to tackling the causes of poverty and not just treating the symptoms. We must tackle the root causes of how people get trapped in poverty, breaking the cycle of disadvantage and dependency culture to stimulate social mobility.

The right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) has been asked to lead an independent review of poverty and life chances including examining the case for reforms to poverty measures, in particular for the inclusion of non-financial elements. The review will explore whether there are measures that can improve the way poverty is tackled, ensuring we focus on the root causes and the paths into poverty as well as looking at the non-financial side.

Both National Indicator 116 and the HBAI series are available in the Library. They can also be accessed online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

and

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai.asp

Social Security Benefits

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what locations medical examinations and reassessments will be undertaken of people in receipt of incapacity benefit and income support during the planned trial reassessments. [8303]

Chris Grayling: During the planned trial medical examinations and reassessments will be undertaken primarily in Aberdeen medical examination centre (MEC), Burnley MEC and Preston MEC.

Bolton MEC may also undertake the examinations and reassessments, however this will only be in cases where the person has specifically requested to attend there.

Social Security Benefits: Arthritis

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist those with rheumatoid arthritis who are able to work to find employment. [7134]

Chris Grayling: The Department has a set of employment programmes designed to help disabled people get and keep jobs. Some programmes focus on helping people into work; others focus on support in the work place.

These programmes range from: national back-to-work programmes available to all customers claiming incapacity benefits and ESA in Great Britain; specialist disability employment programmes for those with more significant support needs through to; the Access to Work programme which provides practical advice and financial support to employed disabled people to help them overcome obstacles resulting from disability and thus stay in work.

We want to establish a system of employment support that treats people with the dignity they deserve. The Work Programme will provide a coherent package of support for people out of work delivering truly flexible and personalised support regardless of the barriers they face or benefits they claim.

The full scope and shape of the Work Programme has not yet been finalised but we do recognise there will be some people for whom the Work Programme is not appropriate. The Government are committed to supporting severely disabled people and are currently reviewing the best way of doing this.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has undertaken an assessment of the reasons for the increase in the number of applications to the Independent Living Fund in the financial year 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [7839]

Maria Miller: Around 2,600 applications were received by the independent living fund in March and April 2010 following the independent living fund letter to local authorities explaining that the fund would only accept applications from those in work from 1 May in order to keep within their annually agreed budget. The number of applications received in these two months represented around 65% of the number of applications that the independent living fund received in 2009-10. These included applications that would have been made throughout this year but were brought forward by local authorities when they had been notified that independent living fund would only be considering applications in line with the priorities in the trust deed from May 2010.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Edinburgh East constituency are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [8189]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows.

Disability living allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and employment support allowance claimants in Edinburgh East parliamentary constituency: November 2009

Number

Parliamentary Constituency	*DLA*	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*
Edinburgh East	5,870	5,120	750

Notes:

1. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what circumstances migrants from other EU countries may continue receiving UK benefit payments after returning to their countries of origin; and after what period such payments cease. [7982]

Chris Grayling: Migrants from other EU countries, who have become entitled to a UK benefit by satisfying the domestic conditions, may continue to receive that benefit on returning to their country of origin, if it is covered by the EU rules that coordinate social security. The general rule is that contributory benefits should continue to be paid in whichever country a person resides but that income-related benefits should not.

The period for which the benefit is paid depends on the specific conditions for each benefit. If a person is entitled to contributory Jobseeker's Allowance, it can be retained for up to three months, provided that person has gone to another member state to look for work and fulfils that country's job seeking conditions. Employment and Support Allowance can continue to be paid for as long as all the conditions of entitlement are met including any work capability assessment. The UK can ask the state of residence to carry out medical testing on its behalf.

Social Security Benefits: Females

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the effects on women of proposed reductions in his Department's welfare spending. [10395]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is considering the equality impacts of all proposed reductions in the Department's welfare spending announced in the Budget on 22 June 2010.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what medical qualifications specialists undertaking medical examinations for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance (i) assessments and (ii) appeals are required to have. [8437]

Chris Grayling: Health care professionals undertaking incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance medical assessments are trained in disability assessment medicine. Recruitment criteria for the health care professionals are specified in the contract between DWP and Atos Healthcare. All health care professionals have to be registered with the relevant licensing authority. They must have a minimum of three years post registration experience which may be waived at the discretion of the chief medical adviser to the DWP. Their experience should feature broad based medical practice in roles that have a clear relevance to a career in disability assessment medicine. Atos Healthcare do not undertake medical assessments for incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance appeals.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average time taken to complete the medical tests and appeals used to reassess benefit entitlements. [8438]

Chris Grayling: The current average clearance time for completion of employment support allowance medical assessments is 32.8 working days. The average time taken by health care professionals to complete an individual employment support allowance assessment is 46 minutes.

Social Security Benefits: Mental Illness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of incapacity benefit and employment support allowance claimants in each English constituency have a mental health-related condition as the primary medical factor. [7739]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many people in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* income support in northern Scotland he expects claims to be reassessed under the planned trial between October 2010 and February 2011. [8302]

Chris Grayling: 850 people will be included in the planned trial to reassess people in northern Scotland between October 2010 and February 2011.

I am unable to give a specific split of the customers who are in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* income support as customers will be selected according to when their existing personal capability assessment becomes due and the information to identify these customers will not be available before 23 September 2010.

Unemployment Benefits: Drugs

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will undertake research into the merits of replacing out of work benefits for problem drug users with exchangeable vouchers. [7847]

Chris Grayling: We do not have plans to undertake research into replacing benefits with exchangeable vouchers for DWP customer groups. However, the Government are determined to reform the welfare system to support employment and earnings and to tackle welfare dependency. A reformed system will make it easier to ensure that drug and alcohol users receive the help and support they need to overcome their dependency and get back to work.

Drug and alcohol addiction is one of the most damaging root causes of poverty, and helping people who are trapped on benefits through drug and alcohol addiction so that they can recover and find employment is a top priority for the Government.

DWP has recently published research examining the issues surrounding benefit uptake in England by individuals who use illicit drugs, in particular heroin and crack cocaine, 'Problem Drug Users Experiences of Employment and the Benefit System' Department for Work and Pensions, Research Report No. 640, June 2010:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_640.asp

The study explores the wider context of education, training and employment for drug users as well as the role of treatment. The report found that drug users face a number of barriers to employment which can include a lack of self-confidence, mental and physical health problems, a criminal record, lack of skills and qualifications and employer discrimination. In addition, financial problems can lead to homelessness and an increase in levels of crime.

Winter Fuel Payments

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of extending eligibility for the winter fuel allowance to *(a)* cancer patients and *(b)* carers. [8722]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payments are targeted at older people because they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of cold weather. They provide assurance to older people that they can keep warm during the colder winter months because they know they will receive significant help with their bills.

The structure of the scheme, which provides for an annual lump sum payment, is not necessarily appropriate for the needs of people with cancer, whose extra heating needs can arise at any time of year, not just in the winter months.

The Government do appreciate that some people with cancer can face extra costs as a result of their condition and treatment, including heating costs, and believe that disability benefits and the disability premiums in the income-related benefits are the most appropriate way of providing this extra help.

With regard to carers, older carers can qualify for winter fuel payments in the same way as any other older person who has reached women's state pension age. Where carers who have not yet reached this age look after a disabled person, any extra costs of impairment for the disabled person, including higher heating costs, are also provided for through disability benefits and the disability premiums in the income-related benefits. Of course, if the disabled person is above women's state pension age, provision is provided through winter fuel payments as well.

Work Capability Assessment

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average monthly number of appeals following the introduction of work capability assessments for existing incapacity benefit claimants. [10383]

Chris Grayling: The work capability assessment is used as part of the assessment of entitlement for employment and support allowance not incapacity benefit.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the work capability assessment—including those on appeals. The statistics were last updated in April 2010 and published in the report "Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment: Official Statistics: April 2010", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The report is also available on the internet at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

Working Conditions: Hearing Impaired

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on use by employers of loop systems for the deaf and hard of hearing in the workplace. [10232]

Maria Miller: Currently, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 places a duty on an employer to make reasonable adjustments for a disabled employee or job applicant to avoid that person being put at a substantial disadvantage, compared with non-disabled people, in the workplace. A similar duty will apply from 1 October 2010 under the work provisions of the Equality Act 2010.

The Government consider that the installation of a permanent or temporary loop system may be a reasonable adjustment for an employer to make for an employee or a job applicant who has a hearing impairment. However, there may be a range of adjustments that an employer could put in place to avoid a hearing-impaired employee or job applicant being placed at a substantial disadvantage in the workplace. Whether or not the use of a loop system is appropriate or reasonable will depend upon the circumstances of the individual case. Consequently, we do not consider it appropriate to be prescriptive about the use of loop systems.

CABINET OFFICE

Academies

Mr Anderson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether academies are considered to be in the private sector for the purposes of compiling the national *(a)* accounts, *(b)* economic and *(c)* labour market statistics. [9062]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking whether academies are considered to be in the private sector for the purposes of compiling the national (a) accounts, (b) economic and (c) labour market statistics. 9062.

ONS produces the United Kingdom's National Accounts. The National Accounts are an internationally comparable accounting framework that describes the activities in a national economy, including the transactions that take place between sectors of that economy. The relevant international manuals are the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA93) and the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95) in particular.

As part of the process of producing the National Accounts, ONS decides on the classification of institutions and transactions within the economy. This well-established process is published on the ONS website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/national_statistics/cop/downloads/NAclassification.pdf

and classification decisions are recorded in the Sector Classification Guide which is available at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7163

City Academies were initially examined by ONS in 2001, and classified in the Central Government Sector. They were reviewed again in 2005 and the initial classification decision was reconfirmed by the National Accounts Classification Committee, consequently ONS continues to classify City Academies within the public sector, as Central Government entities.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he has taken to reduce the cost of running his Department since his appointment. [9365]

Mr Maude: Like all Government Departments, the Cabinet Office has adopted a range of initiatives in order to reduce the cost of running the Department. These include centralising our procurement function to drive down prices; reviewing our biggest projects to see where costs can be reduced; a freeze on all new consultancy spend; an advertising freeze; a freeze on recruitment and cutting spend on expenses such as first class travel and Government cars.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of electors were added to the electoral register during the period 1 December 2008 to 1 September 2009 in each local authority area. [9185]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many, and what proportion of electors were added to the electoral register during the period 1 December 2008 to 1 September 2009 in each local authority area (9185).

The table shows the number of people who were registered to vote in local government elections as at 1 December 2008 and 1 December 2009 and the differences in the number of registered electors between these points in time. This difference refers to the net change between the reference points of the registers and will therefore reflect the net effect of the number of people removed from the registers as well as the number of people added. ONS does not hold detailed data on the number of people added to (or removed from) electoral registers each year.

ONS does not hold electoral registration figures for 1 September 2009 for the UK. Electoral statistics collated by ONS for publication refer to the number of people who would be entitled to vote if an election had been held on the 1 December of each year. This is based on the qualifying date of October of the same year.

A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many elector records were deleted from the September 2009 electoral register following the second year of non-response to canvass in each local authority area. [9186]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many elector records were deleted from the September 2009 electoral register following the second year of non-response to canvass in each local authority area (9186).

ONS does not hold data on the number of people who have been deleted from the electoral register.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were registered to vote for parliamentary elections in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [9193]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many people were registered to vote for parliamentary elections in each local authority area in each year since 1997 (9193).

The table shows the number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections in each local authority area, from 2001 to 2009 for England and Wales, and from 1997 to 2009 for Scotland. These are the latest data available.

Data on the number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections in each local authority area in England and Wales are not available before 2001. This information has only been collated since 2001.

Figures are available for England, Wales and Scotland only. Data on the number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections by local authority area in Northern Ireland are not available.

Parliamentary electors are those individuals entitled to vote in parliamentary elections for Westminster and who meet the residence qualification. They include overseas electors but exclude Peers and European Union citizens. Attainers (people who attain the age of 18 during the currency of the register) are also included in these figures.

A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many electors there were on the register in each local authority area on *(a)* 1 September 2009 and *(b)* 1 December 2009. [9198]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many electors there were on the register in each local authority area on (a) 1 September 2009 and (b) 1 December 2009 (9198).

ONS does not hold electoral registration figures for 1 September 2009 for the UK.

The table shows the number of people registered to vote in local government elections in each local authority area on 1 December 2009.

Electoral statistics collated by ONS for publication refer to the number of people who would be entitled to vote if an election had been held on the 1 December of each year and is based on the qualifying date of October of the same year.

A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many were on the electorate registered in each parliamentary constituency in *(a)* February 1997, *(b)* February 2001, *(c)* December 2004 and *(d)* February 2010. [9199]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many electors there were in each parliamentary constituency in (a) February 1997, (b) February 2001, (c) December 2004 and (d) February 2010 (9199).

The tables show the number of electors there were in each parliamentary constituency in (a) February 1997, (b) February 2001, (c) December 2004 and (d) December 2009 (Tables 1 to 4 respectively).

Figures are not available for February 2010. This is because of a change in the reference date for electoral registers in 2001, from 16 February to 1 December of each year. As a result data are only available for December of each year since 2001.

Parliamentary electors are those individuals entitled to vote in parliamentary elections for Westminster and who meet the residence qualification. They include overseas electors but exclude Peers and European Union citizens. Attainers (people who attain the age of 18 during the currency of the register) are also included in these figures.

Boundary changes affecting some Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland came into effect in 2004. For these constituencies some of the difference in the number of people who were registered to vote between 1997 and 2009 may be a result of the boundary changes.

A copy of the table will be placed in the House of Commons library.

Employment

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* non-UK EU nationals and *(d)* non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available; and what the equivalent figures were in 1997. [10596]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) UK nationals, (b) UK-born people, (c) non-UK EU nationals and (d) non-HU nationals of working age were in employment in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available; and what the equivalent figures were in 1997. (10596)

In the Labour Force Survey (LFS) the distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. Those are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions, but do not include a nationality breakdown.

The available information is shown in the table. The estimates are derived from the LFS and are not seasonally adjusted. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2009. These estimates are consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

Employment levels for people of working age[1] in employment by public and private sector and by nationality and country of birth. Three months ending December 1997 and three months ending March, June, September and December, 2007 to 2010 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Public sector[2, 3]

	UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU nationals[6]*	*Non-EU nationals[6]*
1997 Q4	5,671	5,456	38	140
2007 Q2	6,286	5,976	127	248
2007 Q3	6,214	5,900	136	231
2007 Q4	6,301	5,976	148	218
2008 Q1	6,293	5,964	135	249
2008 Q2	6,342	6,018	138	236
2008 Q3	6,284	5,964	134	238
2008 Q4	6,379	6,043	124	266
2009 Q1	6,432	6,097	114	268
2009 Q2	6,424	6,104	126	262
2009 Q3	6,496	6,173	130	245
2009 Q4	6,512	6,169	129	262
2010 Q1[7]	*6,455	*6,110	***134	**259

Thousand

Private sector[2, 4]

	UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU nationals[6]*	*Non-EU nationals[6]*
1997 Q4	19,112	18,354	183	425
2007 Q2	19,388	18,432	840	873
2007 Q3	19,679	18,674	830	899
2007 Q4	19,608	18,609	858	935
2008 Q1	19,431	18,443	923	927
2008 Q2	19,384	18,370	915	953
2008 Q3	19,229	18,474	904	986
2008 Q4	19,229	18,189	921	1,010
2009 Q1	18,880	17,830	975	933
2009 Q2	18,652	17,628	946	909
2009 Q3	18,763	17,751	915	906
2009 Q4	18,682	17,682	911	925
2010 Q1[7]	*18,491	*17,474	*911	*883

Thousand

Total employment[4, 5]

	UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK EU nationals[6]*	*Non-EU nationals[6]*
1997 Q4	24,923	23,947	221	568
2007 Q2	25,782	24,507	968	1,133
2007 Q3	26,014	24,686	968	1,143
2007 Q4	26,036	24,706	1,009	1,162
2008 Q1	25,849	24,528	1,066	1,184
2008 Q2	25,855	24,507	1,062	1,199
2008 Q3	25,898	24,552	1,043	1,231
2008 Q4	25,725	24,347	1,049	1,284
2009 Q1	25,431	24,043	1,094	1,208
2009 Q2	25,201	23,849	1,075	1,180
2009 Q3	25,387	24,043	1,052	1,159
2009 Q4	25,325	23,974	1,045	1,197
2010 Q1[7]	*25,102	*23,731	*1,052	*1,155

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

[2] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates;

are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;

do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for Public Sector Employment estimates.

[3] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central government, civil service, local government or council (incl. police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.

[4] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.

[5] Includes those whose type of employer was not known.

[6] Other EU comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden only in 1997 Q4. Meaningful comparisons between 1997 Q4 and 2010 Q1 are not possible due to the changes in the composition of EU.

[7] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish each item of correspondence sent by his Department since 12 May 2010 requesting details of non-payroll staff from *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies. [4095]

Mr Maude: It is not usual practice for the Department to publish internal correspondence.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his estimate is of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency. [9794]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

In May 2010 there were 140 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Liverpool, Wavertree.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Life Expectancy: Greater London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what average male life expectancy was in *(a)* Tottenham Green Ward, Haringey, *(b)* Northumberland Park Ward, Haringey, *(c)* Alexandra Ward, Haringey and *(d)* Queen's Gate Ward, Kensington and Chelsea in (i) 2003 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [9105]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what average male life expectancy was in (a) Tottenham Green Ward, Haringey, (b) Northumberland Park Ward, Haringey, (c) Alexandra Ward, Haringey and (d) Queen's Gate Ward, Kensington and Chelsea in (i) 2003 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. (9105)

ONS does not routinely calculate life expectancies for individual local authority wards. The table provides male life expectancy figures at birth for (a) Tottenham Green Ward, Haringey, (b) Northumberland Park Ward, Haringey, (c) Alexandra Ward, Haringey and (d) Queen's Gate Ward, Kensington and Chelsea, for the five year period 1999-2003 (the only period available).

Period life expectancy figures for 1999-2003 based on 2001 Census Standard Table wards in England and Wales were published as experimental statistics in June 2006. Experimental statistics—which are in a testing or consultation phase and are not fully developed—should be treated with caution. Life expectancies for wards can be based on very small numbers of deaths and small populations. They may therefore be subject to large variations even when aggregated over five years, as shown by the width of the '95% confidence interval' in the tables. More information about these statistics can be found here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=14466

Life expectancy at birth for males, by ward in England and Wales, 1999 to 2003[1, 2]

Local authority	*Ward*	*Life expectancy at birth (years)*	*95% confidence interval*[3] *(years)*	*Communal establishment indicator*[4]
Haringey	Alexandra	77	(76-79)	3
	Northumberland Park	71	(69-73)	0
	Tottenham Green	72	(70-74)	0
Kensington and Chelsea	Queen's Gate	84	(82-86)	0

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Five year averages, based on deaths registered in each year, and experimental ward population estimates based on the 2001 Census. The ward names and boundaries used are 2001 Census Standard Table wards.

[3] Confidence intervals (CIs) are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[4] The presence of medical and care communal establishments, such as nursing homes and hospices, can artificially depress the average life expectancy of the ward in which they are located. To aid interpretation of the figures, this indicator shows the proportion of the population of each ward, aged 65 and over, who were resident in such establishments in 2001. For this purpose, all wards in England and Wales (not only the wards in these boroughs) were divided into six groups which are numbered from 0 to 5: '0' means that none of the over-65 population lived in medical and care communal establishments; '1' means that the proportion of the over-65 population in such establishments was in the lowest fifth of all wards . '5' means that the proportion of the over-65 population in such establishments was in the highest fifth of all wards.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether military aid overseas is being considered as part of the Strategic Security and Defence Review. [9065]

Dr Fox: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my statement in the House during the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) Defence Debate on 21 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 59-60, in which I said that:

> "We intend to ensure and consequently fund, a defence diplomacy programme in the SDSR that can make an important contribution to our global influence."

Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on Wales of his Department's planned spending reductions. [8992]

Mr Maude: I do not anticipate my Department's planned spending reductions to have any effect on Wales.

HEALTH

Cerebral Palsy: Children

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children resident in Bedfordshire have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy in each year since 2000. [9731]

Mr Burstow: This information is not held centrally.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to assist those with chronic fatigue syndrome; [9515]

(2) how much was spent by the NHS per capita on treatment of chronic fatigue syndrome in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each of the last five years; [9516]

(3) how many people were diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [9610]

Mr Burstow: Information on the number of people diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) and the associated NHS expenditure is not collected.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to assist those living with CFS/ME, by providing access to health and social care services in line with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for this condition.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9660]

Mr Simon Burns: A variety of non-prescriptive guidance has been provided to departmental staff to assist them in their work.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7629]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department spent the following on light bulbs between 2003 and 2009.

	£
2003-04	71,791.17
2004-05	71,791.17
2005-06	71,791.17
2006-07	71,791.17
2007-08	71,791.17
2008-09	71,791.17
2009-10	10,201.81

Between 2003 and 2008, the Department undertook annual re-lamping exercises. The expenditure listed above included labour and the cost of all lamps and bulbs in London Buildings (Skipton House, Wellington House and Richmond House). From 2009, lamps and bulbs have been replaced only when they fail.

Information prior to 2003 is not available.

The expenditure on light bulbs is not held centrally for the following departmental buildings: Quarry House, New Kings Beam House, Premier Buildings, Premier House and Castle View House. Information is also not held centrally for NHS Connecting for Health, the Department's sole agency and its non-departmental public bodies. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9608]

Mr Simon Burns: In May 2010 Secretary of State decided to reduce the Department's administration budgets for the financial year 2010-11 by 3% in cash terms. Director generals who are accountable for these budgets are now managing expenditure within the lower totals.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee training in each year since 1997. [7651]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department, its agencies and non-departmental bodies are committed to developing its staff and equipping them with the skills and knowledge to carry out their work effectively.

The expenditure on the core Department's corporate learning and development budget in each of the last five years is presented in the following table.

	Spend (£)
2009-10	1,583,041
2008-09	1,718,563
2007-08	1,312,256
2006-07	1,294,299
2005-06	1,591,123

The figures outline corporate learning and development spend only, training that is funded centrally from Department's human resources budgets.

All the Department's directorates also have local learning and development budgets but such figures are not held centrally. As such, the figures presented do not reflect total core departmental spend on this area.

Prior to 2005-06, the Department's human resources function was devolved, therefore figures for corporate learning and development are not available and could be established only at disproportionate cost.

Information about employee training is available from eight of the Department's current executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), and from its one current agency: the Medicines and Healthcare products

Regulatory Agency (MHRA). These are presented in the following table. For the other NDPBs, including those which were abolished during the period 1997 to 2010, similar information does not exist or could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

£000

Employee training	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Appointments Commission	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	3	3	8	8	2	2	7	5
Alcohol Education and Research Council	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	26	27
General Social Care Council	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	52	107	176	204	262	305	284	270	270
Health Protection Agency	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[3]—	[3]—	1,222	1,803	1,944	2,112	2,380
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	115,268
Monitor	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[3]—	27.9	66.2	288.6	200.9	266.4	198.4
Care Quality Commission	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1,573,485
Human Tissue Authority	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	27	107	109	110	176
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency[5]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	572	1,010	849	820	738	1,013	1,145

[1] Not in existence.

[2] Before January 2007 this was an arm's length body of Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

[3] This information is not available centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

[4] Costs are included in the ALB annual accounts, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

[5] Denotes the agency.

Note:

Figures may have come from various sources and so may not exactly match with accrual accounts.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make representations to the European Commission to require the European Food Safety Authority to pay compensation to UK firms affected by delays in processing claims for the health benefits of food products and supplements. [9912]

Anne Milton: No representations have been made.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors working in GP practices in England are foreign nationals. [9521]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally. The Information Centre for health and social care collects data on the number of staff broken down by country of primary medical qualification and not by nationality. The 2009 medical and staff (England) shows 1,723 general practitioners (GPs) qualified within the European economic area (EEA) and 6,263 GPs qualified outside the EEA.

Fluoridation: Drinking Water

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost is to consumers of the fluoridation of the water supply. [9762]

Anne Milton: Strategic health authorities contract with water undertakers and bear the full costs of fluoridating their water supplies. Evidence from existing schemes indicates that the recurring costs of fluoridation are about 80p per head of population per year.

Food Standards Agency

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which parts of the nutrition functions of the Food Standards Agency were not located in his Department prior to the establishment of that Agency. [9378]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) was formed in April 2000. The current nutrition functions of the FSA that were not previously the responsibility of the Department are:

(i) reformulation of processed foods to reduce their levels of salt, saturated fat and sugar;

(ii) surveys of the nutrient composition of foodstuffs;

(iii) policy on nutritional labelling of foods; and

(iv) consumer information on the nutrient content of foods and a healthy, balanced diet.

The functions at (ii), (iii) and (iv) were previously the responsibility of the then Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), although the latter two areas have grown considerably in importance since 2000. The function at (i) has emerged since the FSA came into being.

The National Diet and Nutrition Survey series, and other dietary surveys, are currently a joint responsibility of the Department and the FSA and, prior to April 2000, were a joint responsibility of the Department and MAFF.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from the food industry on the future of the Food Standards Agency. [9633]

Anne Milton: None.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation he plans to undertake with the Scottish Executive on the transfer of public health functions of the Food Standards Agency. [9712]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health wrote to the Minister for Public Health at the Scottish Executive in June to seek the Scottish Executive's view on his proposals to transfer responsibility for nutrition policy for England from the Food Standards Agency to the Department of Health.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on the Machinery of Government Changes.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which functions and responsibilities of the Food Standards Agency in Scotland are reserved. [9713]

Anne Milton: By virtue of the Scotland Act 1998, all the functions and responsibilities of the Food Standards Agency in Scotland are devolved.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he plans to make for policy officials of the Food Standards Agency working on nutrition issues to publish advice issued to Ministers following their transfer into his Department. [10215]

Anne Milton: Food Standards Agency staff who are transferred to the Department will operate on the same basis as existing Departmental civil servants.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he had with individuals and organisations outside his Department on his plan to incorporate the Food Standards Agency nutrition functions into his Department before his announcement of 12 July 2010. [10236]

Anne Milton: The Department has sought views from the devolved Administrations on proposals to transfer responsibility for nutrition policy for England from the Food Standards Agency to the Department.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the Food Standards Agency ensures continuing professional development for its nutritionist staff. [10239]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) strives to ensure that all staff have the relevant and up-to-date skills, knowledge and experience to enable them to contribute effectively in achieving the organisation's business objectives. The FSA encourages qualified nutrition staff to become recognised as registered nutritionists through the Association for Nutrition and to maintain their registration through continued professional development. The FSA promotes reflective practice to learn from work activity, seminars, conferences and encourages all staff to keep up to date through reading peer reviewed nutrition journals.

The FSA also runs a monthly nutrition journal club.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his plans are for the future of the Food Standards Agency (FSA); who will have responsibility in the future for each function currently carried out by the FSA; and if he will make a statement. [10481]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS on the machinery of government changes.

Food: Imports

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that imported food is produced to the same standards as local produce. [9527]

Anne Milton: We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency that under European law, food cannot be placed on the market if it is unsafe. This applies to food produced in other member states, which once placed on the market, is in "free circulation" or, food that is directly imported into the United Kingdom from Third countries, ie countries outside the European Union. Official controls are in place to monitor food that is imported from third countries to ensure it meets EU requirements.

Products of animal origin, such as meat, must come from approved establishments, in approved third countries and enter the UK through designated border inspection posts, under the control of veterinary inspectors. Such food will then undergo documentary checks, identity checks and a prescribed proportion will be subject to physical checks, which could include testing for contaminants. Food not of animal origin is also subject to checks by authorised officers and, depending on its source and whether it is regarded as high risk, may undergo stringent checks to ensure it is safe for human consumption.

General Practitioners

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the evidence base is for his proposals for a GP-led commissioning system; and if he will publish the research undertaken by his Department into commissioning systems; [9752]

(2) what account was taken of experience in other countries in formulating his proposals to extend GP commissioning. [9797]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', published on 12 July 2010, sets out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortiums of general practitioner (GP) practices. There is a body of evidence both from this country and internationally about the importance of involving clinicians in commissioning decisions.

An analytical strategy was published alongside the White Paper. This set out that, between now and the legislation that will give effect to the proposals, the Department will be developing the analytical framework to give a picture of the likely effects of the White Paper. The Department will publish an impact assessment covering the proposals for GP commissioning alongside or shortly after its response to the consultation process. The Department will use the consultation period to inform the development of the impact assessments to ensure that a wide ranging and robust analysis is undertaken.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures will apply to general practices wishing to move from one commissioning consortium to another. [9872]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published on 12 July 2010, sets out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices.

We envisage putting GP commissioning on a statutory basis, with powers and duties set out in primary and secondary legislation. Practices will have flexibility within the new legislative framework to form consortia in ways that they think will secure the best healthcare and health outcomes for their patients and locality. We envisage that the NHS Commissioning Board will be under a duty to establish a comprehensive system of GP consortia. We also envisage a reserve power for the board to be able to assign practices to consortia if necessary.

We will shortly issue a document setting out our proposals in more detail. This will provide the basis for fuller engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral statement of 12 July 2010, *Official Report* columns 661-63, on the NHS White Paper, what provision he plans to make for the establishment of new GP practices. [10153]

Mr Simon Burns: An important function of the new, independent NHS Commissioning Board will be to contract for primary medical services that are appropriate to the needs of the local population, including where necessary to commission new or additional general practitioner provision.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral statement of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 661-63, on the NHS White Paper, whether GP consortia will be able to make arrangements for their patients to receive medication on the NHS which the NHS does not currently provide. [10162]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS published on 12 July 2010, sets out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortia of general practitioner practices.

We will be considering the issue of whether consortia will be able to make arrangements for their patients to receive medication not currently funded by the national health service as we develop the detail of the new commissioning arrangements.

General Practitioners: Bureaucracy

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's latest estimate is of the proportion of GPs' working time which is spent on administration. [9522]

Mr Simon Burns: The last GP Workload Survey, published in July 2007 by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care, showed that the average amount of time spent on practice administration per week by general medical practitioners (excluding locums) was 1.9 hours, representing 5.5% of their time. The survey is available on the NHS Information Centre website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/general-practice/gp-workload-survey

This compares with French general practitioners spending 285 minutes, or 4.75 hours, on administration as published by Issues in Health Economics in July 2009.

General Practitioners: Manpower

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs are working in the NHS; and how many are expected to be working in the NHS in 2015. [9520]

Mr Simon Burns: The headcount and full-time equivalent numbers of general practitioners (GPs) currently working in the national health service are shown in the following table.

General practitioners in England as at 30 September 2009

	Number
Headcount	40,269
Full-time equivalent (FTE)	36,085

Source:
NHS Information Centre for health and social care

The number of GPs expected to be working in the NHS in 2015 is not held centrally. Local NHS employers are responsible for determining the staff required to meet the health care needs of the local population.

General Practitioners: Training

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GPs will be provided with training for the exercise of their proposed roles as commissioners of health care. [9869]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published on 12 July 2010, sets out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices.

GP consortia will have the freedom to decide what commissioning activities they undertake for themselves and for what activities (such as some aspects of financial management) they may choose to buy in support from external organisations, including local authorities, private and voluntary sector bodies.

Primary care trusts will also have an important task in the next two years in supporting practices to prepare for the new arrangements.

We will shortly issue a document setting out our proposals in more detail. This will provide the basis for fuller engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public.

Health

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for commissioning healthy lifestyle services relating to *(a)* exercise, *(b)* smoking cessation and *(c)* weight management after the abolition of primary care trusts. [9788]

Anne Milton: After the abolition of primary care trusts local directors of public health, employed within local authorities but jointly appointed with the new public health service, will be responsible for commissioning health improvement services, including healthy lifestyle services such as exercise, smoking cessation and weight management. They will use for this purpose a ring-fenced budget allocated by the Department. While the Secretary of State for Health will set national objectives for improving health outcomes, decisions on how to secure those objectives will be made locally, in the light of local needs and circumstances.

Health Services: Rural Areas

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Oral Statement of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 661-63, on the NHS White Paper, if he will make additional funding available to *(a)* GP consortia and *(b)* local authorities in rural areas to reflect rural needs. [10154]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Commissioning Board will make national health service revenue allocations to general practitioner consortia for 2013-14 onwards on the basis of seeking to secure equivalent access to NHS services relative to burden of disease and disability. In addition, the Department will create a ring-fenced public health budget to be allocated to local authorities, the allocation formula for which will include a new 'health premium' designed to promote action to improve population-wide health and reduce health inequalities.

Details of the formulae to be used to allocate this funding will be provided in due course.

Health Services: Standards

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the maximum time an NHS patient may have to wait from initial diagnosis to the commencement of treatment; and if he will make a statement. [9760]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on waiting times from initial diagnosis to the commencement of treatment is not collected centrally.

Information collected centrally shows that in May 2010, the average (median) time waited from referral to starting consultant-led treatment was 8.4 weeks for patients admitted to hospital for treatment and 4.3 weeks for patients whose treatment did not require an admission to hospital.

The revised "Operating Framework for 2010-11", published on 21 June, empowered patients and clinicians to focus on quality and outcomes not processes.

To ensure patients do not experience undue delay at any stage of their treatment we will continue to publish and monitor waiting times between referral and start of consultant-led treatment. General practitioners and commissioners of health services can use this information locally to ensure that they can continue to improve access to services for their patients.

Health Services: Witham

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of residents of Witham constituency (i) registered with a GP and (ii) with access to an NHS dentist. [10164]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an national health service dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24 month period.

Information on the number and proportion of patients seen in the previous 24 months, in England, is available in Table Dl and D2 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 3: 31 December 2009 report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2009 and is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA).

This report, published on 20 May 2010, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910q3

We have included in our coalition programme a commitment to the introduction of a new dentistry contract that will focus on achieving good dental health and increasing access to the NHS dentistry.

The following table shows general practitioner (GP) registered patients for Witham Constituency, as at September 2009.

Primary Care Trust (PCT)	*GP Registered Patients*
Mid Essex PCT	375,857
North East Essex PCT	322,507

Notes:

1. The GP Census collection contains data by trust level only. Witham constituency is contained within and served by Mid Essex primary care trust and north east Essex primary care trust. Data is for the number if GP patient registrations shown on the annual GP Census collection as at September 2009. Please note this is not resident population and may be higher than resident population in the given areas due to multiple registrations/GP systems not being fully up-to-date etc. Owing to this, proportions of numbers registered (and not registered) cannot be accurately calculated by dividing the numbers represented here by resident population statistics. The numbers here represent GP registrations to NHS GPs only.

2. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

Information Centre for health and social care.

Kidney Patients: Infectious Diseases

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many kidney dialysis patients have acquired hospital-borne infections in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [9707]

Mr Simon Burns: Data are not available in the format requested. However, the national health service information centre has recently been commissioned to conduct an audit of vascular access in dialysis patients and this will investigate health care associated infection rates.

The mandatory surveillance system for meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infections provides some information on dialysis patients. The Health Protection Agency document "Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections Report: 2008", shows that nephrology (kidney care) has the highest rates of MRSA bacteraemias of all specialities. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Maternity Services

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has set targets for the optimum proportion of births at each maternity unit by *(a)* caesarean section, *(b)* medical induction, *(c)* surgical induction, *(d)* combined surgical and medical induction and *(e)* spontaneous labour; [10387]

(2) what outcomes his Department uses to assess the quality of maternity services. [10388]

Anne Milton: There are no targets for the optimum proportion of births. Care is managed in accordance with the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guideline recommendations.

The Department is currently consulting on a national health service outcomes framework. The consultation document "Liberating the NHS: Transparency in outcomes for the NHS", published 19 July 2010, includes proposals for improvement and outcome indicators for maternity services. The consultation period closes on 11 October 2010.

The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England and is therefore responsible for assuring the safety and quality of services provided by maternity units. All providers of regulated activities have to register with the Commission and meet 16 requirements of essential safety and quality. The Commission has published its "Guidance About Compliance", which it uses to assess whether providers are meeting the registration requirements.

Mental Health Services: Prisoners

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Justice an increase in support for NHS staff treating mental health patients in the Prison Service. [9591]

Mr Burstow: The national health service is responsible for the commissioning of health care in prisons and the Department of Health and Ministry of Justice have regular discussions about health care in prisons.

Muscular Dystrophy: Young People

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what services meeting internationally-agreed Standards of Care the NHS provides for young people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy making the transition from paediatric to adult services; [9687]

(2) how much funding special commissioning groups allocated for the provision of services to patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy in each region in the last 12 months; and what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which the organisation of care for such patients complies with the agreed Standards of Care. [9782]

Mr Burstow: It is the responsibility of health and care professionals, working in conjunction with patients and their families, to arrange the most appropriate health and social care for those living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Those living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy should continue to be able to access the full range of health and social care services during the transition from paediatric to adulthood. It is the responsibility of local health bodies and health professionals to ensure transition to adult services does not result in a deterioration in available services.

The National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions (the NSF) provides an overview how this care should be provided. The eleven Quality Requirements of the NSF are compatible with more condition specific standards of care, such as the international TREAT-NMD recommendations for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Information on funding allocated by special commissioning groups for Duchenne muscular dystrophy is not routinely collected.

We have made no assessment of the extent to which the care for such patients complies with internationally agreed standards of care.

Neuroblastoma: Health Services

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on treating patients with neuroblastoma in each of the last five years. [10639]

Mr Burstow: The Department holds estimated England level expenditure on cancer and tumours, which can only be broken down into general sub-categories, therefore this information is not centrally collected.

NHS

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 5q of his Department's White Paper Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, by what mechanisms he will limit the powers of Ministers over day-to-day NHS decisions. [9790]

Mr Simon Burns: Current statutory arrangements allow the Secretary of State a large amount of discretion to micromanage parts of the national health service. In future, the Government will be clear about what the NHS should achieve; we will not prescribe how it should be achieved. It is intended that the forthcoming Health Bill will introduce provisions to establish more autonomous NHS institutions, with greater freedoms, clear duties, and transparency in their responsibilities to patients and their accountabilities.

NHS: Drugs

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what continuing mechanisms there are to evaluate whether that *(a)* generic and *(b)* other drugs represent value for money. [10637]

Mr Simon Burns: The major control over the expenditure on national health service generic medicines is effected by the Category M system which adjusts reimbursement prices in line with market prices each quarter, taking into account the findings of the medicines margins survey, which monitors the amount of margin pharmacies earn on the medicines they dispense. These arrangements were agreed as part of the community pharmacy contractual framework and have the objectives of ensuring that safe and effective generic medicines are available to patients while securing value for money for the NHS.

The prices of branded prescription medicines and the profits that companies can make on these sales are controlled by the 2009 Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, which is a voluntary agreement, agreed between the Department and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence provides advice to the NHS on the clinical and cost effectiveness of individual products and treatments.

Purchasing of medicines in hospitals is supported by the Department's Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU). Its focus is on strategic supply management in medicines for secondary care, including securing the stable supply of critical drugs. As part of a selective competitive tendering work plan for hospital framework contracts, CMU works to maintain and develop competition. Specific procurement programmes deliver framework agreements for the NHS to call off requirements targeted at generic, branded and specialised medicines. CMU works collaboratively with both NHS pharmacists and suppliers in the collation and analysis of secondary care medicines spend on behalf of both the Department and the NHS via its information systems.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS have responsibility for purchasing drugs; and how much their salaries were in the last 12 months. [10638]

Mr Simon Burns: The purchasing of medicines for use in primary care in the national health service is undertaken by dispensing contractors under the reimbursement arrangements detailed in the Drug Tariff. In secondary care, this is undertaken through a network of procurement specialists and hospital pharmacists. Information is not held centrally on the number and salaries of staff involved.

There are 62 officials in the Department who currently manage the framework agreements for generic and branded medicines for use in NHS hospitals. This work is undertaken as part of a wider role, which includes work associated with supply chain activity, e-commerce, the collection and provision of medicines information in secondary care and the supply of specialised medicines, childhood vaccines and clinical countermeasures.

In addition, two officials oversee the purchase of buffer stocks of a range of medicines that would be used in the event of a supply chain disruption caused by a pandemic or other emergency.

Details of salary ranges are listed in the following table.

Number of staff	*Grade*	*Pay range 2009-10*
1	Administrative Officer	£16,229—£23,120
3	Executive Officer	£20,417—£29,600
12	Higher Executive Officer	£25,534—£36,765
30	Senior Executive Officer	£32,148—£45,118
8	Grade 7	£43,348—£60,962
4	Grade 6	£54,617—£73,828
1	Senior Civil Service band 1	£70,000—£74,999

NHS: Finance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the recent Health White Paper, what steps he plans to take to ensure that commissioning consortia do not underspend allocated financial resources. [9867]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', published on 12 July 2010, sets out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortiums of general practitioner (GP) practices supported by an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

GP consortiums will include an accountable officer, and the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for holding consortiums to account for the stewardship of national health service resources.

A further document setting out these proposals in more detail will be issued shortly, providing the basis for a full engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public.

Self-harm

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the guidance issued by his Department to professionals working with incidents of self-harm amongst *(a)* prisoners, *(b)* asylum seekers, *(c)* armed forces veterans, *(d)* people bereaved by suicide, *(e)* ethnic minority groups and *(f)* sexual orientation minority groups; and if he will make a statement; [9033]

(2) what assessment he has made of the standard of services for people who attempt suicide provided by *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [9110]

Mr Burstow: The Department has made no such assessments.

The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and social care in England.

Slaughterhouses: Inspections

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abattoirs and meat cutting plants are subject to inspection by staff of the Food Standards Agency; and how many such plants are not required to have meat hygiene inspectors on site when operating. [10213]

Anne Milton: All abattoirs are subject to inspection and audit, with Food Standards Agency (FSA) presence required during the hours of operation. As at 20 July 2010, there are 425 approved abattoirs in Great Britain.

Cutting plants do not require FSA presence when operating, but are subject to audit on a risk based frequency. As at 20 July 2010, there are 1273 approved cutting plants in Great Britain.

One premise may comprise both an abattoir and a cutting plant.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to the meat industry of a meat hygiene inspector was in each of the last three years. [10214]

Anne Milton: The hourly rates charged for a meat hygiene inspector to a Food Business Operator (FBO) in Great Britain for the delivery of official controls in an approved establishment over the last three years are:

	£/hour
29 March 2010 to date	32.40
28 September 2009 to 28 March 2010	30.70
31 March 2008 to 27 September 2009	22.50
28 May 2007 to 30 March 2008	20.80

From April 2001 until 28 September 2009 charging was based on the lower of throughput or time charges. The vast majority of FBOs paid throughput charges. Those FBOs that paid time charges were not paying for the full cost of the service provided. This was approximately 30% below full cost due to Ministers freezing charge-rates in 1999 and capping rates in 2000.

From 28 September 2009, a fully time based charging system was implemented, FBOs are charged the full cost of the service less a discount. The discount has been calculated such that the 2009-10 charge for an FBO would be the same should their throughput and operating hours remain the same, subject to compliance with the European Union minima requirement. After recalculating the EU minima requirement using the average sterling/euro exchange rate for 2009, the range of discounts received by FBOs is currently 0-100%.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many employees in his office attended Civil Service Live in 2010; what estimate he has made of the number of early leavers taken up in such attendance; and how much such attendance cost the Cabinet Office. [9059]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 375W, which covers the attendance of Cabinet Office staff.

My office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Departmental Running Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his office since his appointment. [9609]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office earlier. My office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent by the Government on encouraging people to register to vote in each of the last five years; and how much is planned to be spent on this in 2010-11. [9200]

Mr Harper: Electoral registration officers receive funding for undertaking activity related to electoral registration direct from local authorities, via the Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

In addition, in each of the last five years, funds have been provided from the Participation Fund to support local electoral officers in undertaking their statutory duties under sections 9 and 69 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (which require them to maintain the electoral register and to encourage participation by electors):

	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	934,741.56
2008-09	544,391.70
2009-10	[1]153,894.99

[1] The Government provided pre-approval for a further £399,976 to be spent by local electoral officers. This will be paid upon receipt of relevant claims and invoices.

In addition, a total of £67,354.96 is planned to be spent in 201011. This sum relates to the cost of activities which were undertaken by local authority electoral officials to encourage participation at the elections which were held on 6 May. The Participation Fund has now been ended, in the Emergency Budget of 22 June 2010. Support for the work of electoral registration officers will be strengthened as part of the move to individual electoral registration which this Government are committed to speeding up.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Loans

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on measures to increase levels of bank lending to small businesses. [9982]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* The Cabinet Committee on Banking and the Independent Commission on Banking were established to address the fundamental banking issues, including lending to small businesses.

In addition to this, Ministers will hold a quarterly forum to bring together representatives from the high street banks as well as key small business representative bodies to discuss access to credit issues.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to bring forward proposals to increase the flow of credit to small and medium-sized enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [10080]

Mr Prisk: Our coalition agreement makes clear that ensuring the flow of credit to viable SMEs is essential for supporting growth and should be a core priority for a new Government, and we will work together to develop effective proposals to do so.

As such, the Budget announced that a Green Paper will be published before the summer recess to consider the broad range of finance options for businesses.

In the meantime, we continue to encourage the banks to lend to credit worthy businesses. The Budget also announced that the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) facility for this year is being increased by £200 million to £700 million for small businesses until 31 March 2011. In addition, the Government have in place agreed lending commitments to Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) businesses with RBS and Lloyds Banking Group.

Clasado: EU Law

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make representations to the European Commission to review time taken by the European Food Safety Authority to assess the health benefits claimed for food products and supplements produced by Clasado Ltd in Milton Keynes. [9874]

Mr Prisk: The Government are aware of a large backlog of claims as a result of the increased rigour required from the scientific review of health benefit claims and the concerns of industry arising from this. The Government will urge the Commission to expedite the assessment and authorisation process.

Commonwealth

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which Commonwealth organisations his Department provides grant funding; and how much it has provided to each in each of the last 10 years. [10633]

Mr Davey: The Department does not record grant funding under the heading of Commonwealth organisations and generally does not use this definition. It is unable to provide details of any grant funding without the names of specific organisations.

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees of his Department and its predecessors attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department and its predecessors of such attendance in each such year. [9042]

Mr Davey: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods, the publishers of Civil Service World, who bear the financial risks. The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. Departments do not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. There will have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates, which are paid for by individual Departments. Civil servants attending the event will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by the Department.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7147]

Mr Prisk: In the Budget the Government announced plans for reducing the regulatory burdens on business, including the introduction of a one-in-one out system for new regulations and a fundamental review of all regulation inherited from the previous Government scheduled for introduction over the coming year. These regulations will not be implemented until they have been reviewed and re-agreed by the Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee.

As part of a wider review of employment law, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills will also be reviewing laws within relevant policy areas to

> "ensure they maximise flexibility for both parties while protecting fairness and providing the competitive environment required for enterprise to thrive."

The Your Freedom website launched by the Deputy Prime Minister on 1 July 2010, will also give members of the public the opportunity to suggest existing regulations for removal, in order to reduce the burden on business.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8236]

Mr Davey: As set out in the Ministerial Code Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7581]

Mr Davey: The following figures relate to spend by this Department and its predecessors on utilities and telephones since 2003/04. Costs are not available prior to this. Utility figures for the years 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 cannot be split by separate services as this information is not available. Telephone costs show spend from the Department's central budget and do not include any costs for mobile phones/line rental that may have been purchased by individual Directorates.

£000

	2003/4	*2004/5*	*2005/6*	*2006/7*	*2007/8*	*2008/9*	*2009/10*
Electricity	—	—	—	1,576	1,598	2,079	2,149
Water	—	—	—	188	70	90	116
Gas	—	—	—	70	151	273	180
Utilities	1,025	1,243	1,501	—	—	—	—
Telephones	2,540	2,573	3,077	2,191	2,271	1,635	2,282

Information for non departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 7 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7581 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. In each year for which figures are available Companies House spent the following on electricity, water, heating, and telephone services:

£

Year	Electricity	Water	Gas	Telephone Services
2009	630,934	32,485	54,224	474,758
2008	603,037	38,285	77,635	437,689
2007	446,013	35,434	44,374	505,699
2006	471,152	27,409	60,960	486,212
2005	405,785	26,245	52,634	356,985

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is unable to provide the information requested for each year since 1997

Accounting records are only available from 2003/2004. Heating costs are not separately identifiable as they are normally included in building maintenance or rent costs. Costs for the use of gas are available for the reporting period and are shown below. All amounts are in £000s.

Year	*Electricity*	*Water*	*Gas*	*Telephone*
2003/2004	215	21	20	600
2004/2005	243	27	18	531
2005/2006	332	20	22	681
2006/2007	447	24	27	853
Note[1]				
2007/2008	509	15	34	984
2008/2009	628	18	17	1,287
2009/2010	676	21	56	1,061

[1] Companies Investigation Branch merged with The Insolvency Service from 2006-07. Figures from 2006-07 onwards therefore include both The Insolvency Service and the Companies Investigation Branch

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7581), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have spent the following:

	£
(i) Electricity	119,000
(ii) Water	nil
(iii) Heating (gas)	19,000
(iv) Telephone services	405,000

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 15 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on electricity, water, heating and telephone services in each year since 1997.

Information on such expenditure prior to 2001 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Since 2001, the National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, spent the following:

				£
	Electricity	*Water*	*Heating (Gas)*	*Telephone services*
2001	12,047.11	[1]—	3,227.78	13,465.54
2002	22,006.74	[1]—	9,829.14	16,633.40
2003	12,048.97	[1]—	12,873.50	16,515.91
2004	48,198.79	[1]—	17,496.15	22,499.20
2005	54,186.50	[1]—	18,549.25	16,849.33
2006	28,429.07	[1]—	31,675.74	18,212.14
2007	38,935.78	[1]—	23,298.74	16,722.24
2008	40,789.46	30,500.00	26,112.78	19,665.22
2009	50,316.96	14,297.02	29,575.94	20,987.34

[1] Water costs prior to 2008 cannot be properly disaggregated because of a lack of sub-metering.

Letter from John Alty, dated 20 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has spent the following amounts on electricity, water heating and telephone services (including data lines). Data for periods before 1999/2000 are not available in the required timescale.

				£000
	Electricity	*Water*	*Heat*	*Telecom*
2009/10	322	30	99	634
2008/09	366	24	152	616
2007/08	287	29	94	576
2006/07	284	28	131	553
2005/06	267	22	113	526
2004/05	192	28	79	545
2003/04	169	24	87	571
2002/03	164	15	82	655
2001/02	190	24	73	620
2000/01	174	15	72	659
1999/2000	188	20	52	697

Diamond Jubilee 2012: Shops

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will encourage large retailers to close their shops on the day appointed to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. [9677]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* No. The Government believes it is a matter for each retailer to decide whether and how it will commemorate this special occasion.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the number of jobs created of implementation of the Agency Worker Regulations 2010; and if he will make a statement. [10077]

Mr Davey: An impact assessment (IA) on the Agency Workers Regulations was published when they were laid by the previous Government in January. This considered a range of possible dynamic effects, including the impact on job creation. The IA noted that higher costs associated with hiring temporary agency workers may manifest themselves in terms of price (wages) and/or quantity (number of agency workers hired) adjustments, and that the nature of the effect is likely to vary by sector or occupation.

English Language: Training

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's budget for English as a Second or Other Language training is for 2010-11; what plans he has for the budget in subsequent years; and if he will make a statement. [10579]

Mr Davey: This information is not held centrally as budgets are devolved and decisions on individuals developmental needs are taken at a local level.

Decisions on funding for English as a Second or Other Language training will continue to be made locally based on business and individual needs.

Export Credit Guarantees

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which countries have paid recoveries to the Export Credits Guarantee Department since 2000; how much has been paid by each country; and to what projects these payments relate. [9922]

Mr Davey: Recoveries over the period from overseas Governments made in respect of claims paid by ECGD were as follows:

	£ million
Algeria	160.0
Angola	74.6
Argentina	9.5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.1
Brazil	324.5
Bulgaria	3.6
Croatia	40.4
Ecuador	11.0
Egypt	49.5
Gabon	97.6
Ghana	21.3
Grenada	0.2

	£ million
Indonesia	402.8
Jamaica	0.4
Jordan	226.0
Kenya	19.2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	16.4
Mexico	66.3
Montenegro	0.4
Morocco	44.0
Nigeria	625.2
Pakistan	0.9
Peru	85.1
Philippines	26.0
Poland	436.5
Russian Federation	633.5
Serbia	10.6
Vietnam	1.5

The original defaults covered thousands of contracts over many years involving a very wide range of UK capital and consumer goods. Most of the claims were consolidated and repaid under multilaterally negotiated debt agreements and it is no longer possible to identify the precise nature of the exports.

Foreign Investment in UK: Israel

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance his Department provides to businesses based in Israel seeking to invest in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency; how much financial assistance it has provided in each of the last 13 years; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of annual investment to the North East from such businesses attributable to the work of One NorthEast. [9592]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is as follows:

Assistance to businesses based in Israel seeking to invest in the UK

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government Department with responsibility for attracting foreign direct investment into the UK. It is the joint responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. UKTI provides bespoke information and location advice to potential and existing foreign direct investors. This work is delivered through UKTI's global network, in partnership with a range of organisations, including English regional development agencies and devolved administration economic development agencies. Overseas, the UKTI network is based in British embassies, high commissions and Consulates-General, including a UKTI inward investment team at the British embassy in Tel Aviv.

In the financial year 2009-10 UK Trade and Investment provided approximately £16 million, via BIS, specifically for foreign direct investment work by the English regional development agencies. Devolved administrations have separate funding arrangements.

This was part of a total of approximately £80 million spent globally by UKTI in the same period on foreign direct investment work.

UKTI assisted a total of 57 foreign direct investment projects from Israel which located or expanded in the UK in the financial years 1997-98 to 2009-10 inclusive (see Table A). Of these, 15 were assisted in collaboration with one or more RDAs or devolved administration economic development agencies. Additionally, English RDAs or devolved administration economic development agencies assisted a further 14 such projects in which UKTI was not directly involved.

Assistance to businesses based in Israel seeking to invest in the North East of England

ONE North East is the organisation which, in collaboration with UKTI and partner organisations, assists inward investors to locate and expand in the North East of England. The Middlesbrough South and Cleveland constituency is covered by the inward investment team at ONE North East.

UKTI assisted a total of three foreign direct investment projects from Israel which located or expanded in the North East of England in the financial years 1997-98 to 2009-10 inclusive (see Table B). All of these were assisted in collaboration with ONE North East. Additionally, ONE North East assisted a further two such projects in which UKTI was not directly involved.

Of this total of five projects, three located or expanded in the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. All three were assisted by UKTI in collaboration with ONE North East.

Financial Assistance in each of the last 13 years

UK Trade and Investment does not provide financial assistance to inward investors. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and RDAs do, according to their respective roles and competences. In the period from financial year 2002-03 to 2009-10 inclusive, One North East provided a total of £1,362,600 to such projects in the North East of England, of which £870,000 went to such projects in the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. In 1998-99 a Regional Selective Assistance payment of £50,000 was made via Government Office in connection with a project in the North East region. The annual breakdown of these figures is given in Table C.

Source:

One North East, and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Proportion of annual investment to the North East from such businesses attributable to the work of ONE

During the period 1997-98 to 2009-10 inclusive, 99 foreign direct investment projects from Israel located or expanded in the UK. Of these, six located or expanded in the North East of England. As indicated above, three were assisted jointly by UKTI and ONE North East. Additionally, ONE North East assisted a further two such projects in which UKTI was not directly involved.

Source:

UK Trade and Investment

Breakdown of UKTI recorded foreign direct investment projects from Israel in each year from 1997-98 to 2009-10 showing amount of financial assistance, the number of projects assisted by UKTI and/or ONE North East locating or expanding in the North East of England, and the number of such projects locating or expanding in the constituency of Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland

A: National figures

	Total number of projects into UK from Israel—all sources	*Total number of projects with RDA/DA only involvement from Israel*	*Total number of projects with RPA/PA and UKTI involvement from Israel*	*Total number of projects with UKTI only involvement from Israel*
1997-98	0	0	0	0
1998-99	0	0	0	0
1999-2000	0	0	0	0
2000-01	2	0	0	0
2001-02	5	0	0	0
2002-03	8	3	0	1
2003-04	7	1	5	0
2004-05	6	0	3	2
2005-06	13	0	2	7
2006-07	12	2	2	7
2007-08	14	3	1	5
2008-09	16	3	1	7
2009-10	16	2	1	13
Total	99	14	15	42

North East region

B: Project numbers

	Total number of projects into the NE from Israel—all sources	*Total number of projects with North East region only involvement from Israel*	*Total number of projects with North East region and UKTI involvement from Israel*	*Total number of projects with UKTI only involvement from Israel*	*Total number of projects into Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency from Israel*
1997-98	0	0	0	0	0
1998-99	0	0	0	0	0
1999-2000	0	0	0	0	0
2000-01	0	0	0	0	0
2001-02	1	0	0	0	0
2002-03	1	1	0	0	0
2003-04	1	0	1	0	1
2004-05	0	0	0	0	0
2005-06	1	0	1	0	1
2006-07	0	0	0	0	0
2007-08	0	0	0	0	0
2008-09	0	0	0	0	0
2009-10	2	1	1	0	1
Total	6	2	3	0	3

Source:
UKTI database

C: Financial assistance from ONE

	Financial assistance provided to FDI projects from Israel in the North East Region (£)
1997-98	0
1998-99	50,000
1999-2000	0
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	90,000
2003-04	90,000
2004-05	35,600
2005-06	77,000
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	1,070,000
2009-10	0
Total	1,412,600

Source:
One North East and BIS

Insolvency

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place to protect small and medium-sized enterprises against the effects of insolvencies upstream in a supply chain. [7195]

Mr Davey: Our insolvency regime provides a number of mechanisms to ensure that companies who may be facing financial distress but could remain viable have the opportunity to reach a compromise with their creditors. There is also a range of business support available, especially for SMEs. The Business Link service provides customers with access to help and support, offering free, impartial advice and information. Business Link is delivered via three channels—a network of business advisors, a national helpline (0845 6009006) and an online portal:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations his Department has received on the establishment of *(a)* a Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and *(b)* other such partnerships to cover (i) Worcester and (ii) other areas of Worcestershire. [10500]

Mr Prisk: Local authorities and business from Worcestershire have been involved in discussions on the Government's proposals for local enterprise partnerships.

The Government wrote to local authorities and business groups on 29 June inviting outline proposals for local enterprise partnerships by the 6 September.

Manufacturing Industries: Middlesbrough

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will provide funding to attract private manufacturing capital in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [9452]

Mr Prisk: The Government have no specific plans to provide funding to attract private manufacturing capital in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, but manufacturers there can continue to access venture capital funding through a national programme of Enterprise Capital Funds which businesses can approach for growth funding via an equity share. The north-east has also now launched a £120 million venture capital and loan fund which has a number of funds which support a range of sectors including manufacturing. This is being sponsored by One North East, and will be administered by North East Finance.

National Composites Strategy

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his plans are for the future of the National Composites Strategy. [9803]

Mr Prisk: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave previously to the hon. Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy) on 20 July 2010 , *Official Report*, column 299W.

National Vocational Qualifications

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* England had an NVQ3 level or above on 1 April in each year since 2008; and if he will make a statement. [10135]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* The following table shows the number and percentage of working age adults (men aged 19 to 64 and women aged 19 to 59) in Peterborough unitary authority and England that hold qualifications equivalent to NVQ level 3 or above. These estimates are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and cover the period from January to December in each of 2008 and 2009, the latest year for which data are available.

Number and percentage of people aged 19 to 59/64 holding qualifications at NVQ level 3 or above, 2008 and 2009

	Working age adults at level 3 or above		*Percentage of all working age adults*		*Confidence intervals*	
	2008	*2009*	*2008*	*2009*	*2008*	*2009*
Peterborough UA	37,000	37,000	39.1	40.3	+/- 3.0	+/- 3.2%
England	14,678,000	15,195,000	49.5	50.9	+/- 0.3	+/- 0.3

Base: Aged 19 to 59/64. *Source:* Annual Population Survey.

While local authority level estimates can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies such as parliamentary constituencies. Furthermore, estimates for local authorities are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence intervals[1] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-3.0 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 3pp above the estimate and 3pp below the estimate.

Please note that these estimates will not be comparable with the national estimates from the Labour Force Survey, which BIS uses to report headline measures of qualifications held within the population at national level. As well as being based on different time periods, the estimates from the two data sets are complied using different methodologies. The method used to calculate the headline Labour Force Survey measure allows for known issues arising in capturing data on attainment through social surveys, but this method cannot be applied to the Annual Population Survey data. As a result, the estimates provided in the footnote potentially underestimate attainment within the population.

[1] Those given are 95% confidence intervals.

National Vocational Qualifications: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley were awarded an NVQ Level 3 or above by 1 April in each year since 2008; and if he will make a statement. [10439]

Mr Willetts: The following table shows the number and percentage of working age adults (men aged 19 to

64 and women aged 19 to 59) in the London borough of Bexley that hold qualifications equivalent to NVQ level 3 or above. These estimates are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and cover the period from January to December in each of 2008 and 2009, the latest year for which data are available.

Number and percentage of people aged 19-59/64 holding qualifications at NVQ Level 3 or above, 2008 and 2009

	Working age adults at Level 3 or above		*Percentage of all working age adults*		*Confidence Intervals (percentage)*	
	2008	*2009*	*2008*	*2009*	*2008*	*2009*
Bexley	59,000	62,000	46.4	49.1	+/- 4.7	+/- 4.8

Base:
Aged19-59/64
Source:
Annual Population Survey

While local authority level estimates can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies such as parliamentary constituencies. Furthermore, estimates for local authorities are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[1] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-4.7 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 4.7pp above the estimate and 4.7pp below the estimate.

It is important to note that these estimates will not be comparable with the national estimates from the Labour Force Survey, which BIS uses to report headline measures of qualifications held within the population at national level. As well as being based on different time periods, the estimates from the two datasets are compiled using different methodologies. The method used to calculate the headline Labour Force Survey measure allows for known issues arising in capturing data on attainment through social surveys, but this method cannot be applied to the Annual Population Survey data. As a result, the estimates provided above potentially underestimate attainment within the population.

[1] Those given are 95% confidence intervals

Older Workers

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to support the PRIME initiative of events and training to return older people to work. [9590]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government are committed to making this decade the most entrepreneurial and dynamic in our history. We will put in place a coherent and comprehensive strategy for enterprise and we welcome the contribution of all organisations that are assisting people to start a business, including PRIME.

One NorthEast: Grants

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of the grants made by or organised through One NorthEast went to organisations in *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* the private sector in each of the last five years; [10419]

(2) how much organisations in *(a)* the Tees Valley, *(b)* Tyneside and *(c)* Northumberland received in grants through One NorthEast in each of the last five years. [10420]

Mr Prisk: The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the Regional Economic Strategy and their Corporate Plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

Regional Development Agencies

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has guidelines to ensure a geographical spread of projects funded by regional development agencies across their region. [10313]

Mr Prisk: This Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The Agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments in their regions have been guided by their corporate plans and the Regional Economic Strategy. The Regional Economic Strategy identifies the key sectors and geographical areas for investment, and is produced in consultation with stakeholders in the regions.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to make a decision on the future ownership arrangements for assets purchased as part of regeneration programmes by regional development agencies. [9759]

Mr Prisk: Regional development agencies own a range of assets which were acquired for regeneration purposes. Some of these assets may be sold by agencies as part of their normal programme of disposal over the next year. We will be discussing with RDAs, their partners and other Departments the future ownership of other assets. No final decisions have been made.

Regional Planning and Development

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* science and innovation and *(b)* industry of proposed reductions in regional spending. [10878]

Mr Prisk: Our proposals are for restructuring the delivery landscape for economic development. Replacing the regional development agencies (RDAs) with local enterprise partnerships will ensure that these partnerships better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas that they serve.

Reorganising the delivery of economic development will ensure a focused targeted delivery of policy/services in areas where it can have the most benefit, and we would not expect that that this transition will have a negative impact on science and innovation or industry in the English regions.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to reallocate funding previously allocated to regional development agencies. [9934]

Mr Prisk: The forthcoming spending review will inform future funding allocations.

Strategic Investment Fund: Haringey

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each organisation in the London Borough of Haringey has received from the Strategic Investment Fund. [10987]

Mr Prisk: The Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) is funding around 45 different projects and programmes.

The SIF is a UK-wide fund, and a number of projects supported by the SIF are themselves UK-wide in geographical scope. They will benefit companies across the UK, including those in Haringey.

A number of other projects supported under the SIF can be identified to specific geographical locations, though the benefits of the projects will often be felt over a much wider area. There are no SIF projects located specifically in Haringey.

Wind Power: North East

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to proceed with the £500 million grant to the renewable wind energy industry in the North East announced in March 2010. [9936]

Mr Prisk: The Government have committed to proceeding with previously announced projects in the north east that support the renewable wind energy industry notably £18.5 million for offshore wind turbine test sites and £11.5 million for an extension to the wind turbine blade test facility, both at the National Renewable Energy Centre (NaREC) at Blyth in Northumberland.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 26 July 2010

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

London Olympics

13. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to ensure that people from all parts of the UK volunteer for the London 2012 Olympics. [10682]

Hugh Robertson: LOCOG will launch its London 2012 'Games Makers' volunteer scheme tomorrow. The scheme will be marketed across the UK. A roadshow in September will follow, and then selection and training events will be held across the country.

The Department is working with local authorities to enable them to provide volunteers to welcome visitors in 2012.

BBC's Accounts

18. **Alec Shelbrooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress has been made on implementation of the proposals set out in the coalition agreement to give the National Audit Office full access to the BBC's accounts. [10688]

Mr Vaizey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier to my hon. Friend the Member for Warrington South (David Mowat).

Arts: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with officials and Ministers in HM Treasury on future levels of arts funding. [11444]

Mr Vaizey: This Department meets regularly with the Treasury. The future arts funding settlement will be decided in the spending review, the outcome of which will be known in October this year.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to ring-fence Arts Council England funding. [11445]

Mr Vaizey: There are no plans to ring-fence arts funding. Our priority is putting the economy back on its feet and restoring the nation's finances. This is in the interests of all our sectors, particularly the arts and culture sectors which receive significant amounts of private finance. Any budget reductions will be made while protecting frontline services as far as possible.

Betting

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the sums in dormant betting accounts. [11184]

John Penrose: It has not yet been possible to make an informed estimate of the sums that may be held in dormant betting accounts as such figures are not generally published by betting operators. The Tote has, however, previously advised that the gross figure for uncollected winnings recorded during the financial year 2008-09 was £1.04 million.

I have asked the hon. Member for Bath (Mr Foster) to compile a report for me into abandoned betting accounts and other unclaimed winnings. The report will seek to consider how much money may be left abandoned in betting accounts and the value of unclaimed winning tickets. The hon. Member for Bath will be meeting interested parties throughout the autumn to gather views and information. He expects to present his findings, along with a possible proposal of new legislation, to me by the end of the year.

Betting Shops: Greater London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received from the Mayor of London on licensing of betting shops in London since his appointment. [10925]

John Penrose: I have not received any representations from the Mayor of London on licensing of betting shops in London.

Big Lottery Fund: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had on the effects on Scotland of the proposed changes to the criteria for the Big Lottery Fund with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Scotland, *(b)* the Lottery Fund in Scotland, *(c)* Scottish Executive Ministers, *(d)* the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations and *(e)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. [11068]

John Penrose: We propose to consult on this shortly, and will include the Big Lottery Fund, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. Initial discussions have already taken place between DCMS officials and officials at the Big Lottery Fund, the Scotland Office and the Scottish Executive and the Secretary of State for Scotland recently met the Chief Executive and Scotland Chair of the Big Lottery Fund about this and other lottery proposals.

Big Lottery Fund: Voluntary Organisations

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of grant money awarded from the Big Lottery Fund went to organisations in the community and voluntary sector in each of the last three financial years. [10270]

John Penrose *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* In 2004, the Big Lottery Fund gave an undertaking to direct between 60-70% of funding to the voluntary and community sector (VCS). This undertaking has since been increased to 80% of grants. This commitment reflects the view that the VCS is frequently best placed to make funding work for those communities and people most in need.

The following table sets out the percentage of grants committed to the VCS for the last three financial years.

Financial year	*Percentage of grants committed to the VCS*[1]
2009-10	91
2008-09	87
2007-08	68

[1] These percentages include grants awarded though the Awards for All programme. Prior to April 2009, Awards for All was delivered by the Big Lottery Fund and funded by Big Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. Since April 2009, Awards for All has been delivered and solely funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what grants were awarded by the Big Lottery Fund to *(a)* community and voluntary organisations and *(b)* other organisations in each constituency in each of the last three financial years. [10271]

John Penrose *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* A list containing details of each grant awarded in each constituency could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Big Lottery Fund have, however, provided a table that details the total amount of grants committed as proportions of grants committed to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and non-VCS grants in each constituency for each of the last three financial years. This table will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The table includes grants awarded through the Awards for All programme. Prior to April 2009 Awards for All was delivered by the Big Lottery Fund and funded by Big Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. Since April 2009 Awards for All has been delivered and solely funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

Bolton and Quinn

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Arts Council England has paid to Bolton and Quinn in each year since 1997. [11185]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has not paid Bolton and Quinn since 1997. In 2004-05 Arts Council England paid them £11,750 and in 2005-06 £14,363.38.

Broadband: West Yorkshire

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to roll out superfast broadband to rural areas in Colne Valley constituency. [10708]

Mr Vaizey: On 8 June, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport set out the Government's plans for ensuring the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe. A transcript of this announcement in its entirety can be accessed via the DCMS website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/ministers_speeches/7245.aspx

The Government are committed to making a service level of 2 Mbps available in towns and villages still without a basic level of access. The office charged with delivering this universal service commitment, Broadband Delivery UK, held an industry event on 15 July to provide further information on this commitment. Roll-out of broadband is first and foremost a matter for private sector investors. However, as stated in the Coalition's joint programme for Government, we will seek to introduce superfast broadband in remote areas at the same time as in more populated areas, and pilots will be held in three areas to test the roll-out of superfast broadband in rural areas. The locations of these pilots will be announced later in the year.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11159]

John Penrose: The Department's performance for payment of invoices within 10 working days and within agreed terms to all suppliers in each month from April-June 2010 is set out in the table.

	Percentage of payments made within 10 working days	*Percentage of payments made within agreed terms*
April	98.05	99.25
May	97.37	99.04
June	95.81	99.12

To disaggregate performance by small and medium sized enterprise suppliers would incur disproportionate cost, as the DCMS systems do not record payment data in this way.

Departmental Degrees

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many officials in his Department have a BSc degree in a science or engineering subject. [11258]

John Penrose: At this time, DCMS does not record the degree qualifications held by officials.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office; [7990]

(2) which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7991]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State has cancelled contracts for personal Government Car Scheme (GCS) cars for this Department's Ministers. Ministers have made use of green cars, which are provided by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency, on an ad hoc basis and we are currently negotiating a final cancellation fee with the GCS.

The costs Ministers have incurred for taxi, bus and underground train travel for the months they have been in office, are shown in the table:

Minister	*Travel expenses post appointment (£)*
Jeremy Hunt	412.68
Ed Vaizey	50.00
Hugh Robertson	159.30
John Penrose	175.28

The only expense claimed directly by a Minister is £30.00 for a taxi to/from an event at the Australian high commission by the Minister for Sport and the Olympics.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department to date. [9601]

John Penrose: The Department has taken steps to reduce its costs in 2010-11 by cutting £800,000 across administrative and pay budgets (including travel and subsistence, ministerial cars, consultancy, training, publicity and overtime); and £750,000 of its own capital expenditure (mainly software upgrades). In addition, it has also reduced by 3% the grants it makes to most of its arm's length bodies and other institutions and programmes funded by the Department.

We will be taking further steps to reduce administration costs as part of the spending review.

Football

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what criteria he plans to use to assess progress on reforms of football governance; [10806]

(2) what timetable his Department has set for bringing forward proposals for the reform of football governance. [10807]

Hugh Robertson: While it is not for Government to run football, I have made it clear that I want to see the three football authorities working together to address various issues in the game, including the implementation of the Burns Review.

I will be meeting with the authorities again in the near future to see what progress has been made.

Gambling

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date the Gambling Commission plans to publish the Gambling Prevalence Study 2010. [10983]

John Penrose: The Gambling Commission plans to publish the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 in February 2011. Further details are available on the Commission's website at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/research__consultations/research/bgps/bgps_2010.aspx

Gambling: Licensing

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps the Gambling Commission takes to monitor *(a)* the annual number of gambling premise licences issued and *(b)* the locations in respect of which such licences are granted. [10984]

John Penrose: Under the Gambling Act 2005, local authorities are required to inform the Gambling Commission of the grant of an application for a premises licence. This includes details of the location of the premises.

Gaming Machines

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations his Department has received from the British Amusement Catering Trade Association on *(a)* the proportion of category B3 arcade machines in amusement arcades and *(b)* the stake on category B3 machines; and if he will make a statement. [10890]

John Penrose: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 21 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 333W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Shipley (Philip Davies).

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many B2 gaming machines there were in the UK in each year since 2001. [10986]

John Penrose: Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) were reclassified as B2 gaming machines in September 2007 when the Gambling Act 2005 came into effect. No central records of the number of gaming machines were held prior to that, although the Gambling Commission's 2006-07 annual report did contain figures that included an industry estimate of 24,500 FOBTs.

Since 2007 the Gambling Commission has published figures for all categories of gaming machines, based on industry estimates. For B2 machines these were: 2007-08 27,000; 2008-09 27,500. Figures for 2009-10 are not yet available. This data is available on the Gambling Commission's website at

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/gh-about_us/annual_report_and_accounts.aspx

Horserace Totalisator Board: Manpower

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff are employed by the Tote in Wigan constituency. [11306]

John Penrose: The Tote currently employs 540 staff in the Wigan area, based in the Tote Park head office and the retail shops in the area.

Local Broadcasting: West Yorkshire

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for local television in West Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [10709]

Mr Vaizey: The Government want to see commercially sustainable local television emerge across the UK. The Government recently appointed Nicholas Shott of Lazard Ltd. to look at the necessary conditions for this to happen and consider the ways in which major cities and other areas might sustain local television services. His findings will inform the Government's proposed approach due to be published later this year.

London Review of Books

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding the London Review of Books has received from the Arts Council in each year since 2000. [10891]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England has supplied the information in the following table for funding the London Review of Books each full financial year since 2000.

			£
Financial year	*Grant in aid*	*Lottery*	*Total*
2000-01	14,050	0	14,050
2001-02	14,050	0	14,050
2002-03	14,500	0	14,500
2003-04	14,500	0	14,500
2004-05	14,900	0	14,900
2005-06	15,300	0	15,300
2006-07	20,000	0	20,000
2007-08	20,180	0	20,180
2008-09	20,724	0	20,724
2009-10	21,284	5,000	26,284

National Lottery: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of current recipients in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Glasgow of funding from the Big Lottery Fund which would not meet the new proposed criteria for eligibility for such funding. [10233]

John Penrose *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* I have made no such estimate. I am proposing to consult shortly on a policy direction that would require the Big Lottery Fund to take account of the need to focus funding on the voluntary and community sector in respect of its UK non-devolved and England expenditure. The Big Lottery Fund's devolved expenditure in Scotland would not be covered by such a direction.

Olympic Games 2012: VAT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on Olympic construction and procurement projects of the increase in the standard rate of value added tax. [9634]

Hugh Robertson: The impact of the increase in the rate of VAT, as announced in the June 2010 Emergency Budget, is that the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will be required to pay approximately £45 million in additional VAT. As of 30 June 2010, and taking this additional cost into account, the anticipated final cost for the ODA programme is reduced £6 million since the previous quarter, due to savings achieved by the ODA.

Performing Arts

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to place a statutory duty on local authorities to fund performing arts. [11442]

Mr Vaizey: It is our view that regulation is not the best way to deliver cultural services at a local level. We want to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that are most appropriate for their area, rather than imposing a one size fits all model of cultural provision. Imposing a statutory duty would also add to burdens placed upon local government at a time when deregulation is a priority.

Theatre

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to provide support for the theatre sector. [11443]

Mr Vaizey: We are wholly committed to a strong future for the arts, including support for the theatre sector.

In 2009-10 Arts Council England invested over £104 million into regularly funded theatre organisations and more than £13 million into theatre through grants for the arts.

Arts Council England carried out an extensive assessment of the theatre sector in 2009. The findings of this assessment fed into Arts Council England's recent consultation 'Achieving great art for everyone' to help develop a strategic framework for its future investment in the arts, including theatre. The framework will be published in late 2010.

Theatre: Government Assistance

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the contribution to the economy made by subsidised repertory theatre in each year since 1997. [11281]

Hugh Robertson: This Department and Arts Council England have made no such estimate, however the Society of London Theatre published the Wyndham Report in 1998. This explored the economic impact of London Theatre.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11389]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office does not differentiate between suppliers and endeavours to pay all valid invoices as promptly as possible. The Scotland Office's performance is shown in the following table:

	Percentage	
2010	*Paid within 10 days*	*Paid within 30 days*
April	96.4	100
May	98.8	100
June	100	100

Electricity: Meters

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in Scotland which use pre-payment electricity meters. [11425]

Michael Moore: Ofgem monitors the performance of domestic electricity and gas suppliers in relation to payment methods. Information is collected from suppliers on a quarterly and annual basis and the data received from suppliers are set out in tables and published on the Ofgem website. The latest information for September 2009 shows there were 485,412 households with pre-payment electricity meters in Scotland.

Graduates: Taxation

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the implications would be for funding of higher education under the Barnett formula in Scotland from introduction of a graduate tax in England. [11069]

Michael Moore: An independent review, led by Lord Browne, is currently looking at how universities in England will be funded in the future. Its terms of reference state that it will report in the autumn, before which it would be inappropriate to pre-empt the outcome.

Housing Benefit

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what meetings he has had with *(a)* housing associations in Scotland, *(b)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and *(c)* Citizens Advice Scotland on the effects of the proposed changes in housing benefit regulations. [11070]

Michael Moore: The Department for Work and Pensions has been in contact with the Scottish Government on this matter and published detailed impact assessments of the changes on its website on 23 July.

Merchant Shipping

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 729W, on merchant shipping, what discussions he has had with the Under-Secretary of State for Transport on the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010. [11071]

Michael Moore: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Motherwell and Wishaw (Mr Roy) on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 817W.

Minimum Wage

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the effect on those resident in Scotland and in receipt of the national minimum wage of the proposed change to the standard rate of value added tax. [9886]

Michael Moore: I have not discussed this issue with the First Minister. The decision to raise the standard rate of value added tax was part of a necessary plan to tackle the largest budget deficit in peacetime history, which this Government inherited. As a result of the action we are taking, basic rate taxpayers will gain from the £1,000 rise in the personal allowance for income tax, and families will gain from increases of £150 and £60 above indexation per year to the child element of the child tax credit in the next two years respectively. The Budget also commits to keeping everyday essentials such as food and children's clothing free from VAT.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Access to Work

8. **Jane Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on proposals to change the access to work programme to increase opportunities for disabled people to find employment. [10309]

10. **Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on proposals to change the access to work programme to increase opportunities for disabled people to find employment. [10311][1]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to ensuring disabled people are given the support they need to get a job and remain in employment.

The coalition agreement made a commitment on Access to Work. The Government Equalities Office is developing plans for delivering this commitment and further details will be announced in due course.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she has taken to reduce the running costs of the Government Equalities Office since her appointment. [9816]

Lynne Featherstone: The Minister for Women and Equalities has submitted plans for reductions to running costs for the GEO in her submission for the spending review. The Minister has already introduced stringent controls on expenditure in line with Treasury and Cabinet Office guidance on for example recruitment, communications, publishing and media. In addition controls have been introduced on the use of taxis and first class travel for GEO staff.

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[1] *[Official Report, 6 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 1MC.]*

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in her Department in 2009-10. [10000]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office paid £5,361,000 in remuneration to civil servants in 2009-10.

EC Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will estimate the cost to her Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6880]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office acts in accordance with a wide range of regulation of both EU and domestic origin and it is not standard accounting practice to distinguish regulatory compliance costs from overall running costs. This figure could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Equalities and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

Ann McKechin: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women the Equality and Human Rights Commission employs in Scotland. [10488]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The Equality and Human Rights Commission is independent and manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided. The Commission employs 14 men and 32 women in Scotland.

Maternity Leave

Ann McKechin: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the practice is of *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission on recruitment of staff to provide cover for female staff who are absent whilst on maternity leave. [11067]

Lynne Featherstone: Government Equalities Office's practice when maternity leave is taken is to manage the absence internally, from within the Department's existing staffing resource. Where a temporary replacement is business critical, the vacancy is advertised as maternity leave cover across the civil service, on loan terms.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is independent and manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided. Where the vacancy cannot be filled internally, a temporary replacement is sought through the civil service and other non-departmental public bodies.

Women's National Commission

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what plans she has for the Women's National Commission. [10932]

Lynne Featherstone: The coalition Government have made clear their commitment to increase the accountability of all public bodies and reduce their number and costs. The Women's National Commission (WNC) is included in this exercise along with many other non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

My Department, the Government Equalities Office, has written to the chair of the commission, Baroness Gould of Potternewton, inviting the WNC to respond to the three tests which all NDPBs are being assessed against. We are now considering the reply. I have also met with Baroness Gould to discuss the review and listen to her views.

The review will conclude in the autumn and the result will be made public.

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the budget for the Women's National Commission is for 2010-11. [10997]

Lynne Featherstone: The Women's National Commission budget for this financial year is £661,000.

WALES

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of payments made by her Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11383]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office payment statistics do not make a split between small and medium-sized suppliers and other suppliers, this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

The percentage of payments made within 10 days for all suppliers are:

	Percentage of payments made within 10 days
April 2010	98.67
May 2010	98.36
June 2010	98.86

Although payment terms for suppliers range between 14 and 30 days, we aim to pay all invoices within 10 days.

Job Creation

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what recent estimate she has made of the number of new companies seeking to locate in Wales; [10452]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of jobs *(a)* created and *(b)* safeguarded in the economy by inward investment into Wales in (i) 2009 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [10343]

Mr David Jones: As the Prime Minister announced on 22 July 2010, this Government are committed to attracting as much inward investment as possible to the UK. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be focusing on commercial links with the global marketplace and this office is committed to playing its part in drawing as much new investment to Wales as possible.

The latest figures available published by UKTI show that the number of new jobs created from inward investment in Wales was 3,431 in the financial year 2009-10. The number of safeguarded jobs was 3,931.

Public Expenditure: Cuts

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on projected trends in employment in the public sector in Wales attributable to public expenditure reductions in the next five years. [9594]

Mr David Jones: As specific spending plans will be announced in the autumn, following the comprehensive spending review, it has not been possible to produce any forecasts in relation to the impact of public expenditure reductions on Wales.

In devolved areas of spending, it is for the Welsh Assembly Government to make its own decisions about the allocation of its block grant, including any reductions.

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will discuss with ministerial colleagues the provision of support to those employed in the public sector in Wales who will lose their jobs in the next five years as a result of reductions in departmental expenditure. [9595]

Mr David Jones: Both the Secretary of State for Wales and I will continue to have discussions with ministerial colleagues to ensure that any public sector workers affected by reductions in Wales receive all the support that they need.

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate she has made of the number of jobs to be lost in the public sector in Wales in the next five years. [9596]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 10W. It is premature to make any estimates of the impacts on Wales of the Government's public sector expenditure plans.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department and its predecessor has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate she has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by her Department and its predecessor for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11670]

Mr David Jones: No payments have been made directly by the Wales Office to trade unions and no estimate has been made of the value of facilities provided.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many paid manpower hours civil servants in her Department and its predecessor spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11671]

Mr David Jones: One member of staff had 11 hours trade union facility time during 2009-10, in line with the ACAS Code of Practice "Time Off for Trades Union Duties and Activities". We have no information relating to previous years.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many civil servants in her Department and its predecessor spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11672]

Mr David Jones: One member of staff spent the equivalent of 1.5 days on trade union related activities or duties facility time during the 2009-10 period while employed by the Wales Office. We have no figures for previous years.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Afghans from each ethnic group have been recruited to the Afghan National Army; and how many such recruits deserted or otherwise left that army in the last three years; [8251]

(2) what the *(a)* size and *(b)* ethnic composition of the Afghan National Army in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Helmand province was (A) in 2007 and (B) on the latest date for which figures are available. [8252]

Dr Fox: There are currently 130,000 Afghan National Army (ANA) members of which approximately 10,500 are in Helmand Province. Accurate data on the size of the ANA nationally and in Helmand in 2007 is not available, as we did not start to verify strength figures for the ANA until late 2008.

The current ethnic composition of the ANA at the national level is detailed in the following table:

Origin	*Percentage of overall ANA*
Pashtun	44
Tajik	30
Hazara	11
Uzbek	7
Others	8

We do not hold accurate current data for the ethnic composition of the ANA in Helmand.

ANA recruitment and retention are matters for the Government of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* uniformed armed forces personnel, *(b)* civilian support workers and *(c)* contractors were employed in security work in Afghanistan in each of the last 24 months. [9769]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence keeps the number of armed forces and civilian personnel deployed to Afghanistan under constant review. Civil servants deploy to Afghanistan to support the armed forces but they are not directly involved in security operations.

The force levels over the last two years are as follows:

	Military	*Civilian*
July 2008	8,100	40
June 2009	9,000	56
November 2009	9,500	97
July 2010	9,500	133

The Department does not directly contract with private military security companies in Afghanistan.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many operations involving armed drones have been carried out by UK forces in each year of conflict in Afghanistan; and from which bases the operations were carried out. [10056]

Dr Fox: Reaper, operated by the Royal Air Force, is the UK's only armed remotely piloted air system. It entered operational service in October 2007 in Afghanistan and is flown from Kandahar airfield.

The primary role of Reapers operated by the UK remains intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance but they have had the capability to employ air-to-ground weapons since May 2008.

	Weapons use
May to December 2008	28
January to December 2009	42
January to July 2010	27
Total	97

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the effects of adoption of a more passive military stance by NATO in Afghanistan on levels of insurgency in Europe. [10457]

Dr Fox: NATO has not adopted a more passive military stance; it remains fully committed to the counter-insurgency mission in Afghanistan. International security assistance forces are in Afghanistan to protect our national security by preventing Afghan territory from again being used by al-Qaeda as a base from which to plan attacks on the United Kingdom and our allies.

We continue to train the Afghan national security forces so that they can assume responsibility for Afghanistan's enduring security as soon as possible.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of casualties caused by enemy action in Afghanistan in the last 12 months were inflicted on routine *(a)* foot and *(b)* vehicle patrols. [10666]

Dr Fox: Of the 134 service personnel killed due to enemy action between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010, 115 fatalities occurred during foot patrols, operations to dispose of Improvised Explosive Devices, and other dismounted operations; the remaining 19 fatalities were as a result of attacks on vehicles.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what reasons the level of casualties inflicted on routine foot and vehicle patrols in Afghanistan has increased in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [10667]

(2) for what reason routine foot patrols in Afghanistan have not been discontinued; and if he will make it his policy to *(a)* reduce or *(b)* discontinue tasking of British service personnel to such patrolling duties. [10669]

Dr Fox: We are conducting a counter-insurgency operation in Afghanistan, a key part of which is for troops to interact with the local population, some of which can only be carried out by patrolling on foot or in vehicles. We will not implement a policy on foot patrols that limits the ability of commanders on the ground to fulfil the operation.

We constantly assess the security situation and try to adapt our tactics in response while trying to reduce the risk to our personnel through measures such as varying the patrol routes and performing drills to help locate improvised explosive devices.

Despite this, Helmand, where the majority of UK troops are based, remains one of the most violent provinces in Afghanistan. But as security conditions allow, and when the Afghan security forces are ready, international security assistance force troops will increasingly step back from the front line into a supporting role and, over time, will reduce in number. This will be a phased, gradual process and will be subject to careful assessment by commanders on the ground. It is only through close engagement and partnering with the Afghan authorities that we will be able to transfer responsibility for security to the Afghans to deliver a stable country in the long-term.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether officers participate in most routine *(a)* foot and *(b)* vehicle patrols in Afghanistan. [10668]

Dr Fox: Officers share the same risks as the service personnel they command and routinely conduct foot and vehicle patrols with them.

Apache Helicopters

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to the US administration for use of training facilities by UK Apache helicopter pilots in the latest period for which figures are available. [10471]

Nick Harvey: The amount to be paid to the US authorities for the use of training facilities by the UK Apache force during the most recent phase of Exercise Crimson Eagle in Arizona between April and July 2010 is estimated at approximately £770,000. This figure includes rates and rents, estate and facilities management, building maintenance and accommodation stores.

The hot and dry conditions in the West Arizona Aviation Training Site offer ideal preparation for the conditions UK Apache pilots face on operations in Afghanistan. Exercise Crimson Eagle is therefore an essential part of pre-deployment training for both aircrew and ground crew.

Armed Forces: Housing

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many properties his Department rented from the private sector or other providers for the purposes of housing service families in each of the last five years; [10195]

(2) how much his Department has paid to the private sector for rental of accommodation for service families in each of the last five years; [10196]

(3) how many service family accommodation units are in condition *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four; [10197]

(4) how many units of service family accommodation there were for armed forces personnel and their families as at 30 June 2010; [10198]

(5) how many single living accommodation units there were for serving personnel as at 30 June 2010. [10199]

Mr Robathan: As at 30 June 2010, there were 65,019 service family accommodation (SFA) properties worldwide and, as at 31 March 2010 (the latest date for which figures are available), there were 146,813 single living accommodation bed-spaces.

SFA is assessed for its Standard for Condition (SfC)—a detailed measure of the physical condition of a property with Standard one being the highest and Standard four the lowest. A survey to determine the SfC of SFA in England and Wales is currently being undertaken, with similar surveys planned for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Those UK properties so far surveyed and overseas SFA are at the following SfC:

SfC	*Number of UK SFA*	*Number of overseas SFA*
S1fC	14,042	4,391
S2fC	19,270	3,963
S3fC	1,026	4,124
S4fC	201	2,841

While the majority of SFA in Scotland and Northern Ireland are owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), other UK properties are leased from the private sector through various arrangements, including private finance initiatives.

Where suitable SFA properties do not exist in an area or are temporarily unavailable (as a last resort) Substitute SFA (SSFA) is also rented from the local rental market.

The total numbers of SFA or SSFA properties in the UK provided through these arrangements and the total costs are only available for the last four years:

Financial year	*Number of SFA*	*Cost (£ million)*	*Number of SSFA*	*Cost (£ million)*
2006-07	42,884	167	1,279	18
2007-08	42,652	179	1,190	18
2008-09	42,768	184	1,391	20
2009-10	42,060	184	1,524	22

The MOD also currently rents 5,423 SFA properties overseas.

Information for earlier years regarding the total number of overseas SFA and rental costs is either not available or not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Caribbean: Warships

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reduction in his Department's expenditure arose from withdrawal of HMS Iron Duke and RFA Fort George from the Caribbean in December 2009. [10447]

Nick Harvey: The temporary withdrawal of the Royal Navy presence from the Atlantic Patrol Task (North) for the six month period outside the hurricane season (June to November), saved approximately £1 million.

Departmental Fire Services

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to review his Department's provision of defence fire and rescue services through contractors. [10358]

Nick Harvey: At this time there are no specific plans to change the way in which the Ministry of Defence fire and rescue capability is delivered.

The cross-Government Strategic Defence and Security Review is undertaking a thorough examination of our force structure in order to provide the most effective defence of the UK's interests. This exercise will bring defence policy, plans, commitments and resources into balance, and produce over time a transformative change to British defence. This is a wide-ranging review that will examine all aspects of defence, including options for the future provision of fire services. Decisions will be made in the autumn.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what minimum standards his Department sets in respect of the eligibility of his Department's staff and contractors to be employed for fire protection work. [10359]

Nick Harvey: Professional fire protection standards are laid down by the Department for Communities and Local Government (fire and rescue service development criteria and National Occupational Standards), legislative requirements and national best practice within the fire and rescue service sector.

Personnel recruited into the Defence fire and rescue service with no previous experience will undertake a 14 week fire fighter course at the Ministry of Defence Fire Training and Development Centre in Manston, which includes a demonstration of competence within the workplace. Personnel with previous experience (e.g. in local authority fire and rescue service) will be subject to a training gap analysis to identify any shortfalls in their skills. The same criteria will apply to contracted personnel.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7342]

Mr Robathan: The operating costs of operational, satellite and non-operational information technology and telecommunications, including the related Private Finance Initiative (PFI) service charges from 2005-06, have been as follows:

£ million

Financial Year	*Expenditure*	*PFI Service charges*
1997-98	645	—
1998-99	776	—
1999-2000	720	—
2000-01	769	—
2001-02	527	—
2002-03	628	—
2003-04	738	—
2004-05	678	—
2005-06	643	307
2006-07	719	425
2007-08	655	493
2008-09	852	539

These figures represent expenditure by the Department, the on-vote defence agencies and those advisory non-departmental public bodies we sponsor. The figures do not include expenditure by our Trading Funds as they lie outside the departmental accounting boundary. Included in expenditure are IT services, telephone line and equipment rental and minor equipment. The cost of the Defence Fixed Telephone Service is included in the figure for PFI service charges.

We have published this information in our Annual Report and Accounts since 2001-02, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House and are available on line at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

The 2009-10 figures for expenditure and the PFI service charges are intended for publication in our Consolidated Departmental Resource Accounts, which were laid before the House on 26 July.

Merlin Helicopters

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for the eight Merlin helicopters which are exempt from the planned upgrade from Mark one to Mark two. [10444]

Peter Luff: The future use of those Merlin Mark one helicopters not upgraded under the Merlin Mark one Capability Sustainment Programme is under review as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Military Aid

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries receive military aid from his Department; what the primary purpose of this aid is in each case; and how much has been given to each in each of the last five years. [9064]

Nick Harvey: Military Aid incorporates a broad spectrum of activity co-ordinated through our Defence Attaché network. The overarching aim of all military aid is to strengthen the international security environment through the development of bilateral relationships. The Ministry of Defence does not give cash grants to partner countries for military aid but does use departmental funding to offset the cost of activities to achieve these aims. I refer the hon. Member to the MOD Annual Reports and Accounts which can be found on the MOD website at:

www.mod.uk

and which provide information on the funding and the type of activities undertaken for the period requested.

Nuclear Submarines: Accidents

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what inquiry was held into the collision between HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant in February 2009. [10933]

Dr Fox: The First Sea Lord commissioned a thorough review of the collision between HMS Vanguard and FS Le Triomphant. The report on the incident, dated May 2009, contains highly classified operational detail concerning the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent and for reasons of national security, it will not be published.

Nuclear Weapons: Finance

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the budget for any future nuclear weapons scheme will be ring-fenced within his Department's budget if it is accounted for in that budget. [10748]

Peter Luff: The Government are committed to retaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent based on Trident. Spending review discussions continue until the autumn and consequently no final decisions have yet been taken on the Defence budget.

Rescue Services: Helicopters

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the Statement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 1047, on public spending, when he expects the review of the search-and-rescue helicopter replacement project to be completed; and if he will make a statement; [11430]

(2) what factors will inform his Department's review of the search-and-rescue helicopter replacement project; and if he will make a statement. [11431]

Peter Luff: The review of the search and rescue helicopter project is ongoing and is being conducted as a matter of urgency. It is extensive, and is looking at all major aspects of the project. The results of the review, which is being conducted jointly with the Department for Transport, will be announced in due course.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on the inclusion of a future nuclear weapons programme in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [10749]

Dr Fox: None.

The Government are committed to retaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent based on Trident. Both the value for money review of the Trident programme and the re-examination of the UK's declaratory nuclear policy are being conducted within the framework of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Trident

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department's Investment Approvals Board will next discuss the Trident replacement Initial Gate; when the Board is due to reach a decision on the replacement programme; and if he will place in the Library and publish on his departmental website details of the decision. [10490]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) on 12 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 447W.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that parliamentary approval is obtained for any Main Gate decision to commit funds to building a successor system to Trident. [11152]

Peter Luff: Main Gate is not expected until around 2014. A decision on how best to consult will be made nearer the time.

United Arab Emirates

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Veterans travelled to the United Arab Emirates in the course of his official duties between October 2008 and May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each visit. [8254]

Mr Robathan: None.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Greater London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* discussions, *(b)* meetings and *(c)* exchanges of correspondence he has had with the Mayor of London on affordable homes in London since his appointment. [10928]

Andrew Stunell: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Local Government met the Mayor of London on 30 June 2010 to discuss a number of housing issues, including affordable housing.

The Mayor of London wrote to my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill) on 17 May 2010 about the replacement London Plan, including a number of housing proposals in the Plan. My hon. Friend replied to the Mayor on 16 June 2010.

In addition there has been correspondence and meetings between the Mayor and Ministers about the further devolution of power to London, including the proposal that responsibility for the Homes and Communities Agency in London be transferred to the Mayor.

Central Heating: Building Regulations

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account he took of the specification of efficiency standards for central heating circulation pumps his Department undertook prior to the publication of revisions to Part L of the Building Regulations 2010. [10625]

Andrew Stunell: The amendments to Part L of the Building Regulations due to come into force in October 2010 were made by the previous Government following public consultation. The consultation document published in June 2009 contained a proposal that guidance be introduced that new and replacement stand-alone circulator pumps should have a minimum Band C rating. The final technical guidance published in April set out that circulator pumps should have an energy label only, on the basis that there will be a European requirement for all stand-alone circulator pumps placed on the market to be updated to Band A from 2013.

Council Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households were assisted with housing by local authority social services, adult services and children's services departments in each of the last three years. [10561]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* Data on the number of adults (aged 18 and over) in receipt of local authority funded registered residential and nursing care is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The following table shows the number of adults aged 18 and over in receipt of local authority funded registered residential and nursing care as at 31 March 2007, 2008 and 2009.

	Total of all supported residents
2007	247,300
2008	236,100
2009	229,900

Notes:

1. Figures include registered unstaffed homes, voluntary and private registered residential care homes and general and mental nursing homes.
2. Data includes Boyd loophole residents and those clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.

Information on the number of individuals aged less than 18 who are in receipt of local authority funded registered care is not available from this Department.

Council Tax: Exemptions

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues on the *(a)* publication of information about and *(b)* registration with local authorities of dwellings exempted from payment of council tax by virtue of being places of public religious worship. [10916]

Robert Neill: There is no exemption from council tax for places of public religious worship. However, properties used for public religious worship may be exempt from non-domestic rates.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9260]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold any information about the time taken by its contractors to pay invoices from their sub-contractors.

OGC is establishing a voluntary charter with suppliers in 2010 which will cover mutual commitments on a range of policy agendas that Government are pursuing through public procurement including SMEs. The charter will include commitments from signatory suppliers to open appropriate sub-contracting opportunities to SMEs and to pass on favourable terms, including prompt payment, in supply chains.

We will issue guidance to category managers in Corporate Procurement Division (CPD) encouraging this approach when the charter is in place.

Departmental Internet

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies spent on search engine biasing with (i) Google and (ii) other search engines in each of the last five years. [10012]

Robert Neill: The Department conducts its paid search activity through the Central Office of Information (COI). Their records indicate that the Department spent the following amounts on paid search over the last two financial years:

	£
2008-09	537,366
2009-10	221,107

The costs were incurred on activity to promote the following campaign websites:

2008-09—Home Buying And Selling (including Home Information Packs), Fire Kills, Mortgage Help and Preventing Repossessions, HomeBuy, Eco-towns, Energy Performance Certificates.

2009-10—Mortgage Help and Preventing Repossessions, Fire Kills, Fire Careers.

COI do not maintain central records for paid search activity for the years prior to 2009-10, nor do their central records distinguish between search engines used.

The Department does not hold records for paid search activity conducted by its agencies.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5971]

Robert Neill: The property recorded as either *(a)* lost or *(b)* stolen from the Department for Communities and Local Government in the last 12 months and the estimated cost of the replacement of that property is as follows:

Within the last 12 months, under the previous Government, the departmental property reported as lost or stolen was as follows:

Lost:

Nil

Stolen:

Five BlackBerrys valued at approximately £1,000 (£200 each)[1]

Six laptop computers valued at approximately £6,000 (£1,000 each)[1]

Two mobile phones valued at approximately £250 in total

One mobile phone charger valued at approximately £10

One laptop log in key (stolen from staff home address) valued at approximately £70

One memory stick valued at approximately £20

Under the current Government departmental property reported as lost or stolen is as follows:

Lost:

Nil

Stolen:

Six laptops valued at approximately £6,000 (£1000 each).

Employees' or contractors' property reported as lost or stolen during the period and under the previous Government was as follows:

Lost:

One Apple I Phone

Stolen:

One bottle of aftershave

One purse

Two mobile phones

One mobile phone charger

One laptop

Two memory sticks

Two power leads

In no cases did replacement costs fall to the Department.

No employee or contractor's property has been reported lost or stolen since the general election of 6 May 2010

[1] None of the information contained on the laptop computers or BlackBerrys was classified. However, each laptop and the BlackBerrys were encrypted and password protected.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7476]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the FOI disclosure of August 2009 listing spending on logo design over the last five years. Available via:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2009/brandinglogodesign

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7984]

Robert Neill: The Department has spent £62,136 with the Government Car and Dispatch Agency (GCDA) on car services. This figure relates to invoices posted since 12 May 2010 up to and including 12 July 2010. In the year 2009-10 the Department spent £488,276 with the GCDA. Pro-rota, this is less than the last Government, and my Department is taking further steps to deliver efficiency savings in this area.

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7985]

Robert Neill: The Department has spent £62,136 with the Government Car and Dispatch Agency on car services. This figure relates to invoices posted since 12 May 2010 up to and including 12 July 2010. In the year 2009-10 the Department spent £488,276 with the GCDA. Pro-rota, this is less than the last Government, and my Department is taking further steps to deliver efficiency savings in this area.

Disadvantaged: Hyndburn

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the relative level of deprivation in Hyndburn constituency; and if he will make a statement. [10549]

Robert Neill: The Indices of Deprivation 2007, combines a number of indicators into a single deprivation score for each small area in England, this allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation.

Since 2004 the Indices of Deprivation have been produced for all 32,482 neighbourhoods (Lower level Super Output Areas—LSOA) in England. With an average population of 1,500 people, LSOAs are smaller than constituencies thus allowing small pockets of deprivation to be identified.

The results for LSOAs which lie within the boundaries of Hyndburn local authority can be downloaded from the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/zip/indices2007.zip

Hyndburn local authority contains 53 LSOAs of which 10 areas have an overall IMD score that puts them among the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. Table 1 shows the proportion of Hyndburn's LSOAs and population that fall into each of the IMD deciles.

Neighbourhoods and population of Hyndburn LA in IMD 2007 deciles

IMD 2007 Deciles	*Number of LSOAs*	*Mid 2005 population estimates*	*Percentage of population*
1 (most deprived)	10	15,615	19
2	8	12,138	15
3	10	14,583	18
4	5	8,226	10
5	6	9,192	11
6	2	2,988	4
7	6	9,276	11
8	4	7,230	9
9	2	2,982	4
10 (least deprived)	0	0	0
Total	53	82,230	—

The Department also publish six summary indicators for local authorities. There are six measures because there is no single best way of describing deprivation across large areas, such as local authority districts. This is due to the difficulties associated with describing or comparing places with different population sizes and patterns of deprivation. The six summary measures cover various different aspects of multiple deprivation so when considered together give a good overall impression of deprivation in the district. The six summary measures are; Average Score, Average Rank, Extent, Local Concentration, Income Scale, and Employment Scale. A description of what these indicators represent can be found in the Indices of Deprivation 2007 Report available from the Department website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/indiciesdeprivation07

The local authority summary indicators are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/commun:ities/xls/576504.xls

East of England Faiths Council: Finance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public funding has been provided for the East of England Faiths Council in each of the last three year for which figures are available. [10875]

Andrew Stunell: Communities and Local Government has made the following funding available to the East of England Faiths Council in the last three financial years:

in 2007-08 a grant of £12,000 from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund;

in 2008-09 four grants totalling £21,362 towards specific projects and a core grant of £70,000;

in 2009-10 a core grant of £70,000 and a grant of £5,000 towards support for Inter Faith Week 2009.

A further core grant of up to £70,000 is available in the current financial year (a commitment made by the previous Government).

Fires

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fires *(a)* in Harlow and *(b)* in private rented properties in England and Wales were attributable to faults in electrical installations and products in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [10340]

Robert Neill: Fire incident data are available up to September 2009, but only to Fire and Rescue Authority level, and dwelling tenure details are not collected under the Fire and Rescue Incident Recording System. Therefore the data in the table are for all dwellings and for Essex rather than Harlow.

Fires in dwellings attributable to faults in electrical installations and products, October 2008-September 2009

	Number
Essex	173
England	7,098
England and Wales	7,494

Source:
Fire and rescue incident records

Government Office for the North West

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the Government Office for the North West; and if he will make a statement. [10755]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement on regional Government made on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 27-8WS.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of households applying to local authority housing departments as homeless were found to be intentionally homeless in each of the last five years. [10458]

Grant Shapps: Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly P1E returns. Quarterly statistical releases on statutory homelessness published by CLG present national and regional data for the last 10 years. Summary information at local authority level, including the number of households accepted as owed the main duty and the number of households in temporary accommodation, is also published each quarter in an associated supplementary table. The latest (10 June 2010) release and previous editions are available both in the Library of the House and via the CLG website. The next release is due to be published on 9 September 2010.

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Information is collected by the Department on the number of applicant households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need. The figures are provided in the following table. These do not include those that are intentionally homeless and not in priority need. Percentages are given as a proportion of all homelessness applicants.

Number and proportion of applicant households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need, England, 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Applicant households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need		
	Number	*Percentage (%)*	*Total number of applicants*[1]
2005-06	13,260	6	213,290
2006-07	10,930	7	159,330
2007-08	9,560	7	130,840
2008-09	8,640	8	112,900
2009-10	6,580	7	89,120

[1] Excludes ineligible applicants.

Note:
Figures for 2009-10 are provisional.
Source: Quarterly P1E form returns.

Homelessness: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people applying to the London borough of Bexley for local authority housing were found to be intentionally homeless in each of the last five years. [11176]

Grant Shapps: Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly P1E returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the CLG website at:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

A table has been placed in the Library of the House giving numbers for all local authorities in England, including the London borough of Bexley.

The Department only collects figures for the number of applicant households found to be intentionally homeless 'and' in priority need. Therefore the figures do not include those that are intentionally homeless and not in priority need.

Homelessness: Young People

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of people aged 18 to 24 years old who are homeless. [11274]

Grant Shapps: Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly P1E returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Figures broken down by age of households are only available for applicants accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, that is eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

Figures can be provided only for the age bracket 16 to 24 rather than 18 to 24.

In 2009-10 there were 15,510 applicants aged 16 to 24 owed a main homelessness duty.

Housing: Construction

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what allocation his Department has made for Kickstart funding for the Anfield/Brookfield regeneration area. [9289]

Andrew Stunell: The coalition Government remains strongly committed to reducing the United Kingdom's budget deficit and the announcement by the Chief Secretary on the 5 July 2010 confirmed that the Department has agreed to a £220 million reduction in its claim for end year flexibility this year. Given public sector borrowing in 2010-11 was forecast to hit £167 billion such levels of spending on 'borrowed money' was unsustainable—contributing to the forecast £1.4 trillion of public debt by 2014. However, the Government remain committed to the provision of affordable housing and has been able to secure £1.25 billion of the previous administration's £1.5 billion housing pledge.

This will enable the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to meet all existing contractual commitments and will be able to progress some programmes that have been paused while the funding position was under review. The HCA's regional offices will be assessing which other schemes can be progressed, including the Kickstart project for the Anfield and Brookfield regeneration area, with the aim of maximising affordable housing and achieving best value for money. The objective is to give interested parties clarity as quickly as possible.

Housing: Dorset

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in Mid Dorset and North Poole constituency *(a)* contain asbestos and *(b)* were built between 1950 and 1999. [10433]

Andrew Stunell: The information is not available from my Department.

Local Government Services: Tees Valley

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will hold discussions to seek to ensure that all local government services in the Tees Valley sub-region identify themselves with reference to a single identity. [10341]

Robert Neill: I am aware that Tees Valley has a well established history of partnership working across local government and business, and that it has been exploring potential to form a local enterprise partnership. The Government will be very happy to receive such a proposal, if that is the wish of local authorities and local businesses in the area.

Local Government: Lobbying

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue guidance to local authorities on the retention and use of lobbying companies for the provision of lobbying and support services to campaign for increased funding. [9459]

Robert Neill: The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, to which councils are statutorily required to have regard, states that councils should ensure the greatest cost effectiveness in all their publicity and makes clear that public funds should not be used for publicity campaigns intended to persuade the public to hold a particular view on a question of policy.

The Code of Recommended Practice is shortly to be updated. Subject to consultation, we are minded to include stronger guidance to stop the wasteful and unhealthy practice of councils, funded by local or national taxpayers, paying for lobbyists to lobby Government. My Department has already issued guidance to its arms length bodies to cancel their contracts with lobbyists.

Migration Impacts Fund

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many grants were issued from the Migration Impacts fund in 2009-10; and how much was so distributed. [10581]

Andrew Stunell: 158 grant payments were made from the Migration Impacts Fund in 2009-10.

122 of these were made to local authorities, 20 to voluntary bodies, nine to Primary Care Trusts and seven to other bodies including further education colleges. Some local authority grants will have supported more than one project.

The total distributed was £28,223,279.

£25,466,648 of this went to local authorities, £1,762,518 to voluntary bodies, £493,000 to Primary Care Trusts and £501,113 to the remainder.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to make provision in the Decentralism and Localism Bill for planning procedures for multiple occupancy housing. [11223]

Greg Clark: The Minister for Housing (Grant Shapps) announced on 17 June his intention to amend the planning rules relating to houses in multiple occupation. Any changes will be made by secondary legislation.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* net present value is of the policy in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rate bills eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme; [10506]

(2) how many businesses are covered by the policy in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rate bills for newly assessed properties that were split from a larger rateable property; how many are not covered by this definition but have received backdated bills; and what the total liabilities are of both categories. [10509]

Grant Shapps: Estimates published by HMT for the June 2010 Budget gave figures for the cost of waiving certain backdated business rate bills:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

These costs will be assessed again, and the questions on the number of businesses affected and their liability addressed, in the impact assessment that will accompany the regulations for the cancellation of backdated business rates.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* businesses, *(b)* port-based businesses and *(c)* non port-based businesses (i) in each local government district and (ii) in total will receive assistance under the policy in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rate bills eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme. [10507]

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* businesses, *(b)* port-based businesses and *(c)* non port-based businesses (i) in each local government district and (ii) in total will receive assistance under the proposal in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rate bills eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme. [11352]

Grant Shapps: It is estimated that around 3,000 properties in England could benefit from the policy published in the Budget June 2010 to cancel backdated business rate bills eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme. No estimates of these figures are available at a local authority level. Informal inquiries with local authorities estimate that around 700 port-based properties could benefit from the policy published in the Budget June 2010 to cancel backdated business rate bills eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme. Available information for individual port areas was given in a press release issued on the 20 July 2010 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/localgovernment/1644201

These unfair, retrospective rates bill threatened to devastate the export industry which would seriously impact the manufacturing sector. Businesses and their customers can look forward with confidence to the future, unburdened from and no longer distracted by the imposition of unfair taxes that have damaged the industry's competitive advantage.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses which are eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme arising from the backdating of business rates are on a schedule of payments. [10510]

Grant Shapps: Information on how many properties have been granted a schedule of payments agreement is currently being collected from local authorities, and the results are planned to be published in September 2010.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government of the businesses which are on the eight-year schedule of payments scheme arising from the backdating of business rates, what the total liability was *(a)* at the commencement of the schedule of payments and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; and how much backdated business rate has been paid back. [10511]

Grant Shapps: Estimates for the total backdated liability for national non-domestic rates that could apply for a schedule of payments appear in the impact assessments for the initial schedule of payments and the subsequent payment freeze. Information on how much backdated liability is covered by a schedule of payments and how much has already been paid back is not currently available. Information on how many properties have been granted an eight-year schedule of payments and the reduction in liability due to the schedule of payments is currently being collected from local authorities, and the results are planned to be published in September 2010.

The links to the impact assessments referred to are:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20090204_en.pdf

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/em/uksiem_20101507_en.pdf

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether businesses that have paid some or all of the backdated rates that are eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme will be *(a)* refunded and *(b)* refunded the full amount each business has paid to date under the policy announced in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rates. [10512]

Grant Shapps: Businesses that have made payments towards a qualifying backdated rates bill, that will be cancelled, will be entitled to a refund of all monies that have already been paid. It will need primary legislation to cancel these bills and before any refunds can be granted. We will find the earliest opportunity for taking forward the necessary legislation, this will provide a vital lifeline to struggling firms who were facing balance sheet insolvency because of the unfair, retrospective taxes. For example, in the right hon. Member's own local authority of Southampton, 26 properties will be saved from a cumulative backdated liability of £3 million.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much will be refunded to businesses that had already paid some or all of the backdated rates under the policy announced in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rates. [10513]

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much will be refunded to businesses that had already paid some or all of the backdated rates under the proposal announced in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rates. [11354]

Grant Shapps: Initial estimates for the June 2010 Budget suggested that around £50 million could be refunded. Further estimates will appear in the impact assessment that will accompany the regulations for the cancellation of backdated business rates in due course.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether businesses that have paid some or all of the backdated rates that are eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme will be *(a)* refunded and *(b)* refunded the full amount each business has paid to date under the proposal announced in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rates. [11349]

Robert Neill: Businesses that have made payments towards a qualifying backdated rates bill, that will be cancelled, will be entitled to a refund of all monies that have already been paid. It will need primary legislation to cancel these bills and before any refunds can be granted. We will find the earliest opportunity for taking forward the necessary legislation.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses which are eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme arising from the backdating of business rates are on a schedule of payments. [11350]

Robert Neill: Information on how many properties have been granted a schedule of payments agreement is currently being collected from local authorities, and the results are planned to be published in September 2010.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has issued to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the planning application in Tolleshunt Knights (appeal reference: APP/X1545/A/10/2130723/NWF); and if he will make a statement. [11053]

Robert Neill: I cannot comment on individual planning applications. This matter is for the Planning Inspectorate. The Secretary of State published advice to local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate when he revoked regional strategies on 6 July. The advice is clear that regional strategies are no longer part of the statutory development plan. The Planning Inspectorate has ensured that all inspectors are aware of this advice.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will direct the Planning Inspectorate considering the planning application in Tolleshunt Knights (appeal reference: APP/X1545/A/10/2130723/NWF) to take into account his decision to end regional spatial strategies; and if he will make a statement. [11055]

Robert Neill: I cannot comment on individual planning applications; this matter is for the Planning Inspectorate. We published advice to local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate when we revoked regional strategies on 6 July. The advice is clear that regional strategies are no longer part of the statutory Development Plan and should no longer be treated as such when making planning decisions.

Private Rented Housing

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* promote responsible letting and *(b)* deal with rogue landlords. [10844]

Andrew Stunell: This Government are keen to encourage responsible letting through the use of voluntary accreditation schemes for landlords and letting agents. These can offer landlords the benefit of a market advantage and tenants a guaranteed standard of accommodation and service. My Department is working with the leading industry bodies to examine what might be done to increase the use of voluntary schemes by landlords and agents. Local authorities already have extensive powers to take action against rogue landlords. We will work with them to ensure that any barriers to them using those powers are lifted.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status is of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister draft circular 01/2006 (Gypsy and Traveller sites); whether he plans to bring forward proposals to replace it. [8145]

Andrew Stunell: Since regional strategies have been revoked, the level of pitch provision should now be determined locally. We intend to replace this circular with new light-touch guidance as part of a broader package of reforms to ensure fair play in the planning system.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to introduce legislative proposals to strengthen the powers of local councils to remove people who are illegally encamped; and if he will make a statement. [9233]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* We will be giving councils more powers to tackle unauthorised development to ensure fair play in the planning system. We have already written to councils about the importance of bank holiday enforcement; we have revoked the top-down regional targets that have worsened community relations; and we will be introducing new planning guidance and reformed planning laws later this year.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [10472]

Robert Neill: The Government will consider the future of all programmes, including the Working Neighbourhood Fund, as part of the current spending review process.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when each of the overseas establishments approved by her to export dogs for use in scientific procedures to the UK was last inspected by inspectors from the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate; how frequently such inspections occur; and what arrangements her Department makes with third parties for the inspection of such establishments; [10965]

(2) how many overseas supplying establishments are approved to export dogs to the UK for use in scientific procedures; and in which country each is based. [10966]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office has no authority to approve suppliers of dogs for use in scientific procedures located outside the United Kingdom. If suitable dogs are not available from a designated breeding establishment in the UK an application can be made to acquire them from overseas breeding sources. Assurances are sought from the project licence holder on the standards of husbandry and care at the overseas breeding establishment and permission to acquire is given on a case by case basis.

From the information available, since 2004-05, dogs have been sourced from European breeding centres in Italy, France, Spain, and Holland and from the United States. Centres in the United States, France and Italy have been visited in the past by members of the Inspectorate to confirm that information provided to the Home Office was accurate and that husbandry and care practices were satisfactory.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the testing of household products on animals. [11043]

Lynne Featherstone: The coalition Government have pledged to end the testing of household products on animals. Work is under way to define the range of products affected and to determine how an end to such testing can best be achieved.

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences her Department has issued allowing the use of the mouse/rat bioassay (MBA/RBA) method to detect marine biotoxins in shellfish; on what date each such licence was issued; in respect of which *(a)* shellfish species and *(b)* toxin groups each licence since June 2000 was granted; how many such licences were revoked during the period; and on what dates; and what procedure her Department has used to develop new guidelines for the detection of marine biotoxins without recourse to MBA/RBA methods. [10939]

Lynne Featherstone: Currently there is one project licence granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 allowing the use of the mouse/rat bioassay (MBA/RBA) method to detect and quantify marine biotoxins in shellfish. This licence was granted on the 28 May 2009. Regulations EC 2074/2005, EC853/2004 and EC854/2004 set out the relevant EU requirements.

Under the authority of the current project licence animals are only used with the intention of detecting and quantifying toxins specified in the EU regulations as paralytic shellfish (PSP) toxins and lipophilic toxins, otherwise known as DSP.

Since 2000, the more commonly tested species were mussels, pacific and native oysters, cockles, razors and king and queen scallops.

Since June 2000 four project licences allowing the use of the mouse/rat bioassay (MBA/RBA) method to detect marine biotoxins in shellfish have been revoked. From the information available to us they were revoked during either 2000 or 2001, May 2004, 2006 and May 2009.

The Home Office is not party to the development of new guidelines for the detection of marine biotoxins without recourse to MBA/RBA methods, but Home Office experts have contributed to an European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) task force on reducing, refining and replacing animal use for this purpose. We also continue to work with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in their re-defined role of overseeing food safety which includes shell fish testing.

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate works with other regulators in the UK and Europe and with the testing laboratories in order to reduce the numbers of animals used in these tests and to refine the methodology where animal testing is still used.

Asylum

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to provide guidance on the application of immigration rules to those people granted refugee status from 2005 who must apply for further leave to remain in order to ensure that they will not lose their benefit, housing and voting entitlements. [7779]

Damian Green *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* Individuals granted a limited period of five years' refugee status or humanitarian protection since August 2005 will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain from August 2010, in the month before their leave expires.

An application form and information for such individuals on how to apply for settlement is available on the UK Border Agency website. Guidance for officials on considering such applications will also be published on the website shortly.

The UK Border Agency will write to those eligible at the most recently provided address, reminding them of the need to apply. The Agency is also working closely with its corporate partners to communicate the application arrangements as widely as possible.

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on the costs of asylum support of the change in the number of people granted asylum in the last 12 months. [9836]

Damian Green: The number of main applicants for asylum declined from 27,670 in the 2008-09 financial year to 20,220 in 2009-10. In 2008-09, the total cost of asylum support (excluding UASCs and grants) was £313 million, while in 2009-10 it was £312 million.

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to process asylum applications made prior to 2010. [10498]

Damian Green: In April 2007 the UK Border Agency established a dedicated resource to clear the backlog of older asylum cases that were lodged prior to March 2007. It was estimated in July 2006 that the backlog stood at between 400-450,000 "legacy" cases. The Case Resolution Directorate had concluded around 277,000 cases up until the end of May 2010 and should complete the remainder of these cases by summer 2011 or earlier.

Applications lodged since March 2007 have been dealt with by case owners in teams based in each of the regions around the UK. Those which were not concluded within the six months target remain in those local teams where the progress of each case continues to be managed by a case owner.

Asylum: Deportation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers awaiting deportation are in prison. [11300]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency seeks to deport foreign national offenders who meet the following criteria for deportation:

A court recommendation;

For non-European Economic Area nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (other than possession);

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

At the point where no barriers to removal exist, the UK Border Agency will set a direction to remove. According to provisional management information, on 16 July 2010 approximately 140 foreign nationals who met the relevant deportation criteria had removal directions set against them.

Of these, approximately 30% had also submitted a claim for asylum at some stage prior to the removal direction being set and approximately 80% of those who had submitted a claim for asylum were detained either in an immigration removal centre or prison.

British Nationality

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time to process an application for naturalisation was in the latest period for which figures are available. [10567]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The average processing time for naturalisation applications in June 2010 was 1.45 months.

This information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

British Nationality: Citizenship

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether second-generation descendants of former residents of the British Indian Ocean Territory are entitled to British citizenship. [11826]

Damian Green: There are no automatic routes by which second generation descendants of former residents of the British Indian Ocean Territory can acquire British citizenship. They can apply for citizenship through registration, or naturalisation if over the age of 18, based on a period of residence in the United Kingdom.

A person born stateless outside of the United Kingdom and overseas territories to a British Overseas Territories citizen may apply for registration as a British overseas territories citizen under schedule 2 of the British Nationality Act 1981 following a period of residence in the UK or an overseas territory immediately before the application. After acquiring British overseas territories citizenship in this way they may subsequently apply for full British citizenship.

British Citizenship: Traffic Offences

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which road traffic offences the UK Border Agency will normally disregard in considering an application for UK citizenship; what guidance the Agency issues on this matter; and if she will make a statement. [11262]

Damian Green: An applicant for British citizenship is expected to be of good character. Although "good character" is not defined within the British Nationality Act 1981, UK Border Agency (UKBA) would not normally expect to naturalise a person with an unspent conviction. There is however some discretion to overlook minor offences.

Where the applicant is of good character in all other respects, UKBA would normally be prepared to overlook a single minor unspent conviction resulting in a bind-over order, absolute or conditional discharge, admonition, relatively small fine or compensation order, or a fixed penalty notice or Scottish fiscal fines. They would not, however, normally disregard any unspent conviction that involved dishonesty or recklessness.

In terms of traffic offences, offences which would constitute "recklessness" would include offences such as drink-driving, excessive speeding, driving without tax or insurance with no reasonable excuse, or driving while using a mobile phone. Driving offences that might be disregarded are those that might be committed inadvertently, such as minor speeding, stopping in a box junction or going the wrong way down a one way street.

Guidance on the good character requirement is published on the UKBA website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/nationalityinstructions/nichapter18/ch18annexd?view=Binary

Crime

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the attrition rate for *(a)* theft, *(b)* burglary of a dwelling and *(c)* offences of domestic violence was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [10401]

James Brokenshire: Attrition is not a term which is formally defined in criminal justice statistics although in the past there has been one in common usage which relates to the ratio of convictions to offences recorded. In terms of police recorded crime, to achieve such an 'attrition' measure would require using two data sources which are not directly comparable. Within the current data collections, it is not possible to track individual offences through to any conclusion at court and there are important differences between the two data sources which prevent meaningful comparison.

The Home Office police recorded crime data are based on the number of offences recorded in each financial year. Prosecutions and convictions data are collected by the Ministry of Justice and are based on the number of offenders proceeded against. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Detainees: Torture

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the way in which survivors of torture designated for removal are treated by the United Kingdom Border Agency in removal centres and throughout the removal process. [11421]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency takes the welfare of those held in its removal centres very seriously. For this reason, centres are operated in accordance with the detention centre rules and a set of operating standards.

All detainees receive a healthcare screening, normally with a nurse, within two hours of arrival in an immigration removal centre, during which they are asked if they have been the victim of torture. Where a detainee gives a positive answer, healthcare notify the UK Border Agency's case owner, who considers whether in light of the information the detainee should be released.

Representations made by legal representatives, including medical reports submitted by independent doctors or organisations who are experienced in identifying persons who have been tortured, are also considered by the UK Border Agency, and in particular whether it is appropriate to maintain detention. Where the UK Border Agency accepts that a person has been the victim of torture, he or she is normally released. However, there are a number of circumstances in which detention of an alleged or actual victim of torture may nonetheless be appropriate. These may be for reasons of public protection where a person has been convicted of a crime, those who have persistently failed to abide by the terms of their release conditions, and in order to effect removal.

I am not proposing to review the procedures further at this time.

English Language

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 11-12WS, on English language requirement, whether she expects the English language requirement for migrants applying to join a spouse in the UK to be in place by 30 September 2010. [10489]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* On 26 July 2010 the Government announced that this policy would come into force via a change to the Immigration Rules on 29 November 2010. It will not therefore be in place by 30 September 2010.

Entry Clearances

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations her Department has received on its decision to refuse entry to the UK to members of the Iroquois lacrosse team using travel documents issued by the Iroquois Confederacy; and if she will make a statement. [9887]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* The Iroquois lacrosse team have not yet sought leave to enter the United Kingdom and therefore have not been refused leave to enter.

The UK Border Agency has received representations from the US authorities and legal representatives on behalf of the Iroquois lacrosse team about the acceptability of their travel documents. The United Kingdom is unable to recognise the Haudenousanee passport as a valid immigration document which can be used for entry to the UK.

We remain very keen to work with the US authorities and the Iroquois people to facilitate the team's travel for any future occasions that they wish to enter the UK.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances her Department considers representations from hon. Members on the refusal of visitor visas; and if she will make a statement. [10039]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* We will always give full consideration to representations from hon. Members about visit visa refusals, and any other entry clearance decision.

The refusal of a visit visa for a family visit attracts a full right of appeal and the applicant will normally be expected to exercise their right of appeal in order for the decision to be reviewed. Any representations from hon. Members will be taken fully into consideration, along with the grounds of appeal and any additional supporting documentation.

If it can be shown that there are exceptional or compelling compassionate circumstances involved, or that a decision is clearly flawed, we will be happy to review a decision outside the appeal process in the light of representations from hon. Members.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that representations from hon. Members on refusals of visitor visas are referred to the relevant entry clearance manager in advance of the applicant exercising their right to appeal in cases where the applicant wishes to attend an imminent event. [10040]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* I assume that the hon. Member is referring to family visitors as, unlike other categories of visitor, they have a full right of appeal in the event of a refusal of entry clearance.

Where an applicant wishes to attend a family event in the UK and (a) has been refused a visit visa and (b) due to the imminence of the event is concerned that there is insufficient time to appeal against the decision, we would normally advise them that they may wish to re-apply, ensuring that, when they do so, they fully address the entry clearance officer's concerns about their original application, as detailed on the formal Notice of Refusal.

Representations from hon. Members in such cases should normally be provided to their constituents, so that the applicant can submit them along with other supporting documentation when re-applying.

Exceptionally, we will forward representations from hon. Members to an entry clearance manager for consideration outside the appeal process, e.g. where there are clearly compelling, compassionate circumstances. Compelling compassionate circumstances would normally be considered to be the death or serious illness of a close family member.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the relevant entry clearance manager is directed to review a visitor visa case when representations are made by hon. Members to the UK Border Agency; and if she will make a statement. [10041]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* An entry clearance manager will normally only be asked to review a decision to refuse a visit visa application following representations from hon. Members if there are exceptional or compelling compassionate circumstances involved, or if the decision is clearly flawed. Applicants who intended to visit family in the UK can achieve a review of the decision by exercising their right of appeal.

Their grounds of appeal, and any additional supporting documentation submitted, will be taken fully into account. The way forward for other visit visa applicants would be to re-apply, ensuring that they address the concerns about their previous application when doing so.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spouse visas her Department issued to people entering the UK from Pakistan in each of the last five years. [11049]

Damian Green: The number of spouse visas issued to nationals of Pakistan in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Spouse visas issued to Pakistani nationals*
2005-06	9,805
2006-07	10,935
2007-08	10,846
2008-09	8,239
2009-10	5,642

Note:
This information is based on Management Information. It is provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Married People

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spouse visas her Department issued to people coming from each foreign country other than Pakistan in each of the last five years. [11322]

Damian Green: The number of spouse visas issued to nationals of each non-EEA country other than Pakistan, in each of the financial years 2005-06 to 2009-10, is given in the table which has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal migrants identified in the last 12 months were sponsored by institutions *(a)* accredited by the British Council and *(b)* inspected by Ofsted. [5122]

Damian Green: The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained by a manual check of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* migrants and *(b)* dependants of migrants were given leave to enter the UK under (i) the highly skilled migrants programme and (ii) Tier 1 of the points-based immigration system in each quarter since the inception of the system. [10586]

Damian Green: The information requested by my hon. Friend is given in the published Quarterly Control of Immigration Statistics, which is available on our Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds

Please refer to table 1.1: entry clearance visas issued by category, in each quarter since January 2007 to March 2010.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which 20 non-EU nationalities have received the most work permits for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses under the points-based immigration system since the inception of the system. [10587]

Damian Green: The number of work permits issued for each of the requested categories are set out in the following table:

Top 20 non-EU nationalities based on COS Used by Occupation Codes: Doctors and Nurses: 28 November 2008-20 July 2010

Occupation	*Nationality*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Doctors	India	[1]—	605	355	960
	Pakistan	0	285	230	520
	Sri Lanka	[1]—	225	160	390
	Egypt	[1]—	150	100	250
	South Africa	[1]—	180	50	230
	Nigeria	0	80	50	135
	Sudan	0	75	50	130
	Malaysia	0	90	35	125
	Australia	0	65	50	115
	Bangladesh	0	35	30	65
	Burma (Union of Myanmar)	0	30	15	45
	United States	0	25	20	45
	Iraq	0	25	15	40
	Syria	0	30	10	40
	Singapore	0	25	10	35
	Jordan	0	20	10	30
	Libya	0	20	5	25
	Canada	0	20	5	25
	Trinidad and Tobago	0	15	5	25
	New Zealand	0	15	10	25
	Total	5	2,020	1,230	3,255
Nurses	India	[1]—	1,015	500	1,515
	Philippines	0	685	585	1,265
	Zimbabwe	0	520	190	710
	Nigeria	0	180	90	265
	South Africa	0	125	85	210
	Ghana	0	80	40	120
	Australia	[1]—	70	40	110
	Mauritius	0	60	25	85
	Nepal	0	60	25	85
	Zambia	0	60	25	80
	Jamaica	0	60	20	80
	Pakistan	0	55	25	80
	Kenya	0	55	20	70
	China	0	30	25	55
	Trinidad and Tobago	0	45	15	55
	United States	0	30	25	50
	Guyana	0	30	10	40
	New Zealand	0	20	15	35
	Uganda	0	20	5	25
	Malaysia	0	15	10	25
	Total	5	3,205	1,765	4,975
	Total	5	5,225	2,995	8,225

[1] Indicates 1 or 2.

Notes:

1. The data are based on management information, are provisional and may be subject to change. The data are not National Statistics.
2. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
3. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

Foreign Nationals: Licences

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional background checks the Security Industry Authority is entitled to make in respect of foreign nationals applying for licences; and if she will make a statement. [10967]

Lynne Featherstone: The SIA are entitled to make background checks on overseas nationals in accordance with their licensing criteria, which are approved by the

Secretary of State for the Home Office, and published in the form of Get Licensed. A copy of Get Licensed has been placed in the House Library and can be found on the SIA's website at:

http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Documents/licensing/sia_get_licensed.pdf

If any applicant, overseas or UK national, has been based overseas for six continuous months or more during the last five years, they must produce evidence of a criminal record check covering that period from an official source from the country they lived in, which the SIA can verify. An official source will normally mean the Government body that issues criminal record certificates. Any evidence of criminality identified through an overseas disclosure will be judged against the criteria and offences in Get Licensed.

The SIA also undertake right to work checks on any non EEA national applicants. This check does not replace the statutory responsibility of employers to ensure their employees have the right to work in the UK or their responsibility to ensure employees with restricted hours visas do not work more hours than allowed. Employers are advised by the SIA to ensure that they know if an employee's right to work expires before their SIA licence expires, and that they should not accept the possession of an SIA licence as proof of the licence holders right to work in the UK.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many factors are taken into account in assessing whether an individual has been trafficked. [10628]

Damian Green: Decisions about who is a victim of trafficking are made by trained specialists in designated 'Competent Authorities'. A Competent Authority will take into account multiple factors when considering whether an individual meets the definition of trafficking given in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. There is no prescribed list of factors that must be present before trafficking can be recognised, but the detailed training and guidance used by Competent Authorities and frontline staff includes a range of indicators drawn from international best practice. These indicators include being deceived about the nature of the job, location or employer, violence or threats of violence against victim, confiscation of a passport, debt bondage, isolation, confinement or surveillance, forced tasks and excessive working hours.

Detailed information on the Competent Authority consideration procedure can be found in the UK Border Agency's trafficking guidance:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/victimsoftrafficking.pdf?view=Binary

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria the police use to decide whether an individual has been trafficked. [10629]

Damian Green: The decision as to whether an individual is a victim of human trafficking is made by trained specialists in designated "competent authorities" within the UK Border Agency and the UK Human Trafficking Centre, not the police.

Police officers who encounter an individual they suspect may be a victim of trafficking are asked to refer that person to the UK Human Trafficking Centre so an assessment can be made by competent authorities.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been found to be employed by fishing vessels registered to each UK fishing port in each of the last 12 months; and what steps her Department has taken in consequence. [10931]

Damian Green: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by undertaking a search of individual records.

Any abuse of the immigration rules within the fishing industry will not be tolerated. Employers of illegal workers are dealt with through the illegal working civil penalty regime and any prosecutions are dealt with through the courts.

Immigrants: English Language

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the establishment of English language test centres for immigrants. [10426]

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what mechanisms the language skills of migrants applying for spouse visas will be assessed under the proposed new English language requirement. [11041]

Damian Green: On 9 June, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a new language requirement for those seeking entry to the UK as the spouse or civil partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK.

Spouses will be required to meet level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for speaking and listening. The intention is that applicants will need to submit evidence that they have passed a test on a UKBA approved list of test providers with their application for leave to enter or remain, unless they are nationals from majority English-speaking countries.

We have not yet approved test providers for the new spouse language requirement. An announcement about approved test providers will be made at the earliest opportunity.

Immigration

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers she has to revoke an individual's indefinite leave to remain granted following marriage to a British citizen in circumstances in which the individual has been violent towards their spouse; and if she will make a statement. [11047]

Damian Green: Where an individual has been granted indefinite leave to remain as the spouse of a British citizen, and is subsequently alleged to have been violent towards his or her spouse, this is not in itself grounds for revoking that indefinite leave. However, if deception was used in obtaining indefinite leave to remain as the spouse of a British citizen, section 10(1)(b) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, which provides for the removal from UK of a person using deception, is relevant. This allows for leave to be revoked and removal pursued. If the person has been criminally convicted of violence, he or she may have their leave revoked and be subject to deportation.

Immigration: Hungary

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effect on the level of immigration to the UK of the decision of the Hungarian Government to allow ethnic Hungarians living abroad to apply for dual citizenship. [10712]

Damian Green: No assessment has been made to date, but the UK Border Agency will continue to monitor closely any significant changes in numbers of Hungarians registering on the Worker Registration Scheme, or those applying for residence documentation.

Immigration: Work Permits

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been granted in respect of each occupation in each year since the inception of the points-based immigration system. [10584]

Damian Green: The numbers of work permits issued for each of the requested categories are set out in the tables placed in the House Library.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many grants of settlement have been made on the basis of employment with a work permit in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each quarter since quarter 1 of 2006; and if she will give the corresponding figures for spouses and dependants. [10597]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The latest quarterly figures were published in table 4.2 in the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—January to March 2010". The quarterly figures from 2006 to the first quarter of 2010 are given in table 1. Data for second quarter of 2010 are scheduled for publication on 26 August 2010.

The latest annual figures from 1997 to 2009 are given in table 2.

Home Office statistical publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Table 1—Grants and refusals of settlement[1 2 3] by employment based category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[4], Q1 2006 to Q1 2010

Number of persons

	2006					2007[5]				
Broad category of grant	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Employment[6]										
Employment with a work permit after 4/5 years	7,210	2,670	685	710	11,270	1,350	2,880	5,550	5,385	15,165
Spouses and dependants	8,255	2,900	635	550	12,340	1,150	3,470	6,795	6,650	18,065
5 years aggregate of pre PBS categories and Tiers 1 or 2[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Spouses and dependants	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Permit-free employment, businessman, persons of independent means	705	1,820	620	120	3,265	90	175	340	265	865
Spouses and dependants	530	1,305	400	75	2,315	40	120	305	240	700
Commonwealth citizens with a UK-born grandparent	1,380	390	75	50	1,900	90	400	710	480	1,675
Spouses and dependants	520	160	40	20	740	30	150	325	230	730
Total employment-related grants	18,600	9,245	2,455	1,530	31,830	2,750	7,195	14,020	13,250	37,210

Number of persons

	2008					2009[8]					2010[9]
Broad category of grant	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*
Employment[6]											
Employment with a work permit after 4/5 years	6,210	5,765	5,585	5,710	23,270	6,515	6,145	6,605	6,170	25,435	7,675

Number of persons

Broad category of grant	*2008*					*2009*[8]					*2010*[9]
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*
Spouses and dependants	7,815	7,210	7,360	8,185	30,575	9,120	9,250	9,835	8,630	36,830	11,060
5 years aggregate of pre PBS categories and Tiers 1 or 2[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	5	45	410	795	740	1,990	1,230
Spouses and dependants	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	5	60	655	1,170	970	2,855	1,725
Permit-free employment, businessman, persons of independent means	435	470	605	555	2,065	575	1,025	1,725	1,560	4,885	2,035
Spouses and dependants	380	400	510	500	1,790	540	1,230	2,440	2,065	6,275	2,485
Commonwealth citizens with a UK-born grandparent	655	610	445	375	2,090	460	765	355	390	1,975	485
Spouses and dependants	280	300	225	165	970	225	350	190	195	965	235
Total employment-related grants	15,775	14,755	14,730	15,505	60,770	17,550	19,835	23,120	20,715	81,220	26,930

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Includes reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.

[3] May include a small number of cases in which a decision is recorded twice, where an individual has dual nationality.

[4] Data exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence.

[5] Excludes Bulgaria and Romania from January 2007.

[6] In April 2006, the qualifying period for settlement in all employment-related categories changed from 4 to 5 years delaying grants of settlement that would otherwise have occurred earlier.

[7] Grants of settlement to persons that combine qualifying periods of residence in Points Base System Tiers 1 Highly Skilled or 2 Skilled Workers and other pre Point Based System categories.

[8] Revised figures.

[9] Provisional figures.

Table 2—Grants of settlement by employment based category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[1,2], 1997-2009, United Kingdom

Number of persons

Broad category of grant	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[3]	*2004*[4,5]	*2005*[4]	*2006*[4]	*2007*[4,6]	*2008*[4,6,9]	*2009*[4,6,10]
Employment[7]													
Employment with a work permit after 4/5 years	2,840	3,150	3,280	4,445	4,335	5,845	9,190	16,205	25,470	11,270	15,165	23,270	25,435
Spouses and dependants	3,565	3,790	3,580	5,140	5,045	6,835	10,620	17,050	27,340	12,340	18,065	30,575	36,830
5 years aggregate of pre PBS categories and Tiers 1 or 2[8]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	1,990
Spouses and dependants	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	2,855
Permit-free employment, businessman, persons of independent means	975	1,060	835	1,685	1,050	1,095	1,550	1,545	1,945	3,265	865	2,065	4,885
Spouses and dependants	1,195	1,190	1,005	1,115	845	680	1,050	1,020	1,570	2,315	700	1,790	6,275

Table 2 – Grants of settlement by employment based category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[1,2], 1997-2009, United Kingdom

Number of persons

Broad category of grant	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[3]	*2004*[4,5]	*2005*[4]	*2006*[4]	*2007*[4,6]	*2008*[4,6,9]	*2009*[4,6,10]
Commonwealth citizens with a UK-born grandparent	1,110	1,675	2,240	2,580	3,255	4,060	5,275	4,755	4,795	1,900	1,675	2,090	1,975
Spouses and dependants	225	365	540	640	725	1,290	1,945	1,680	1,895	740	730	970	965
Total employment-related grants	9,910	11,230	11,480	15,610	15,255	19,800	29,635	42,260	63,015	31,830	37,210	60,770	81,220

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Data from 2003 exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence.

[3] Excludes reconsideration cases.

[4] May include a small number of cases in which a decision is recorded twice, where an individual has dual nationality.

[5] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.

[6] Excludes Bulgaria and Romania from January 2007.

[7] In 2006 the qualifying period for settlement in all employment-related categories changed from 4 to 5 years.

[8] Grants of settlement to persons that combine qualifying periods of residence in Points Base System Tiers 1 Highly Skilled or 2 Skilled Workers and other pre Point Based System categories.

[9] Revised figures.

[10] Provisional figures.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been issued to non-UK nationals in each quarter since 1 January 2005. [10598]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The number of work permits issued since 1 January 2005 is set out in the following table:

Work permits approved by quarter 1 January 2005-20 July 2010

	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
2005	42,325	44,770	42,050	38,235
2006	41,880	42,720	45,370	41,030
2007	43,225	41,335	43,310	37,055
2008	35,265	39,330	45,135	28,835
2009	7,155	3,280	1,910	1,440
2010	1,340	2,120	480	669,590

Notes:

1. The data are based on management information, are provisional and may be subject to change. The data are not National Statistics.
2. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
3. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to the totals shown.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter to her dated 20 May 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr A. Khan. [6339]

Damian Green: We have no record of receiving the right hon. Member's letter of 20 May 2010 and obtained a copy from his office on 13 July 2010. I replied to the hon. Member on 23 July 2010.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay's letter of 17 June 2010 on his constituent Mr R. Zhang. [11428]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 13 July 2010.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay's letter of 15 June 2010 on his constituent Mr M. Tizora. [11429]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 23 July 2010.

Police: Finance

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which elements of the proposed £135 million police expenditure reductions *(a)* were and *(b)* were not contained in the £545 million of reductions set out in the Policing White Paper published in November 2009. [2073]

Mrs May *[holding answer 14 June 2010]:* The £545 million set out in the 2009 Policing White Paper included £100 million intended for delivery in 2010-11. Savings were to be achieved through national frameworks for procurement, converging IT, reductions in overtime and streamlining support services. I have reduced this year's core Government funding to the police by a total of £125 million. It is for chief constables to use their expertise and decide what makes most sense for their force, including taking account of the £100 million opportunities, but I am quite clear that the £125 million saving can be achieved by driving out wasteful spending on support functions, reducing bureaucracy and increasing efficiency in key functions, leaving the frontline of policing strong and secure. I expect forces to be held to this by both police authorities and Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary.

UK Border Agency International Group

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* directions Ministers in her Department issue to the UK Border Agency International Group; if she will place in the Library a copy of each document containing such guidance and directions; and if she will make a statement. [10038]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* Entry clearance staff working within UK Border Agency International Directorate make entry clearance decisions on the basis of the immigration rules. Guidance on applying the immigration rules is available to staff and the general public at:

http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/ecg/

This guidance is best viewed online rather than in Library copy as it is regularly updated. A small part of the guidance is classified for issues of national security and on this basis it would not be appropriate to publish this in the Library of the House or make it available to the general public.

UK Border Agency: Expenditure

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on legal costs for High Court cases in each of the last three years. [10577]

Damian Green: The information is not collated in the way requested as costs are not recorded based on the seniority of the court where the case was heard.

The Home Office prepares its accounts in accordance with UK GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) adapted for the public sector in accordance with guidance issued by HM Treasury.

UK Border Agency: Immigration Appeals

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of immigration appeals UK Border Agency staff attended in each year since 2005; and what proportion of immigration appeals at which the UK Border Agency *(a)* was and *(b)* was not represented were allowed in each year. [3271]

Damian Green: The proportion of immigration appeals represented by UKBA staff in each calendar year since 2005 is as follows:

		Proportion
	Represented (%)	*Appeal numbers*
2005	91	53,630
2006	84	95,351
2007	85	102,249
2008	76	101,860
2009	64	96,188

The following table shows the proportion of immigration appeals allowed each year since 2005 that were *(a)* represented and *(b)* not represented.

						Proportion
		Not represented	*%*	*Represented*	*%*	*Total*
2005	Allowed	1,409	8	14,528	91	15,937
2006	Allowed	5,587	16	29,927	84	35,514
2007	Allowed	6,211	17	30,806	83	37,017
2008	Allowed	11,870	29	29,092	71	40,962
2009	Allowed	17,473	42	23,997	58	41,470

Notes:

1. In responding to this question, "immigration cases" has been taken to mean asylum, deportation, economic and family migration, international group (entry clearance), and visit visa cases.

2. Figures exclude paper appeal cases as these cases are determined in the absence of a hearing by an immigration judge sitting "in chambers". Neither the appellant's representative nor a presenting officer is required to attend a hearing and these figures are excluded from the appeals representation rates as no representation takes place.

3. The statistical information provided is provisional and for internal use by the UK Border Agency only. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. The validity of data taken from CID is completely reliant on the quality and timeliness of the information held on the database. Statistics to be used publicly or for other Government Departments or agencies must be agreed with the Immigration Research and Statistics Service (IRSS).

4. Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as those withdrawn by the appellant.

Visas: Married People

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers she has to revoke a spouse or partner visa in circumstances in which an individual who has the visa has been violent towards their spouse or partner; and if she will make a statement. [11323]

Damian Green: Where a person has limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom as a spouse or partner, and the marriage or relationship breaks down, there is discretionary provision in paragraph 323 of the Immigration Rules to curtail that person's leave. If the UK-settled sponsor alleges that the migrant has caused domestic violence or made threats, my officials give priority to the consideration of such cases. If a non-British citizen is convicted of a criminal offence carrying a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, he is liable to deportation from the UK. A deportation order revokes leave to enter or remain, and requires the person to leave the UK.

Visas: Northern Ireland

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanism is in place to ensure that non-EU nationals living in the Republic of Ireland comply with visa requirements when travelling to Northern Ireland. [11202]

Damian Green: The Common Travel Area comprises the United Kingdom, the Crown dependencies (the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and the Republic of Ireland, and is based on the principle that once a person has been granted leave to enter one part of the CTA, they will not normally require leave to enter another part of it while that leave is extant and provided they do not leave the CTA.

There are exceptions to this principle and a visa national who has no valid visa for the UK may not enter the UK from another part of the CTA without leave from a UKBA officer.

The UK currently makes no routine immigration checks on passenger travel within the CTA. However, we do carry out intelligence-led operations on intra CTA borders. This includes operational activity in Northern Ireland.

We work closely with the Republic of Ireland to tackle illegal migration and abuse of the CTA. The UK Border Agency, UK police and the Irish Garda National Immigration Bureau work collaboratively to tackle potential risk to the internal CTA borders.

We also continue to work in partnership with the Republic of Ireland and the Crown dependencies on measures to strengthen the external CTA border and prevent abuse; these include initiatives on data sharing, visa arrangements and e-Borders.

Visas: Pakistan

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications there were for visas to enter the UK from Pakistan in each year since 1997; and how many such applications were refused in each such year. [11145]

Damian Green: The number of visa applications from nationals of Pakistan that were (a) received and (b) refused in each year from 2004-09 are shown in the following table. Reliable statistics for previous years are not held.

	Nationality	*Applications*	*Refused*
2004	Pakistan	229,338	64,563
2005	Pakistan	207,331	71,897
2006	Pakistan	243,143	75,633
2007	Pakistan	208,059	85,723
2008	Pakistan	181,345	66,728
2009	Pakistan	147,982	71,657

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process applications for visas to enter the UK *(a)* from overseas and *(b)* from Pakistan was in the latest period for which figures are available. [11146]

Damian Green: In the financial year 2009-10, average processing times for UK visa applications were as follows:

All countries: 9.8 days

Pakistan: 14.9 days.

Actual processing times can vary considerably according to location, category of application and time of year. A guide to visa application processing times for each UK visa application centre overseas is available on our website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas

Processing time is counted from the date the application is lodged and the fee paid to the date that either (a) the applicant is informed that their passport is ready for collection, or (b) the passport is sent back to the applicant.

Work Permits

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are limits on the number of hours a week that an individual on a working visa can work. [11207]

Damian Green: The points based system, and the immigration routes that preceded it, does not place a limit on the number of hours a week that an individual can work. However, migrant workers enjoy the same protection under employment law as resident workers, including the working time directive.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Somerset

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Attorney-General how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* temporary Crown Prosecution Service prosecutors were assigned to cases heard in courts in (i) Taunton and (ii) Bridgwater in each of the last five years. [11028]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service keeps records of prosecutors'/agents' attendance at court recorded by half-day sessions. The figures available for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are no longer available. In 2007-08, 909 half-day sessions were recorded in Taunton and 673 at Bridgwater. However prosecutors and agents cannot be distinguished. In 2008-09 there were 825 half-day sessions in Taunton, of which 67 were conducted by agents, and 585 at Bridgwater, of which 67 were conducted by agents. In 2009-10, there were 840 half-day sessions at Taunton, of which 77 were conducted by agents, and 514 at Bridgwater, of which 70 were conducted by agents.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7599]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is detailed as follows.

Central records held by both CPS and RCPO do not differentiate between different categories of website expenditure. The CPS figures shown, therefore, include expenditure on website design, maintenance, development, content (including Welsh translation), training, publishing, as well as costs for work on the staff intranet.

	Cost
2004-5	£23,000
2005-6	£11,000
2006-7	£53,120.85
2007-8	£65,269.15
2008-9	£190,493.78
2009-10	£199,894.83

Note:

Central records of costs incurred before 2004 are not available and could be determined only at a disproportionate cost.

RCPO spent £58,741 in 2008-09 which includes not only design but also the costs of the strategy and planning, build, hosting, infrastructure, content provision, testing, evaluation and staff costs. RCPO was set up in 2005. Records for website spend are not available before 2008-09 and could be determined only at a disproportionate cost.

The National Fraud Authority spent £168,851 in 2009-10. This cost included the design and development of the Action Fraud website (including the design of the web reporting tool). No other expenditure on websites is recorded.

The Attorney-General's Office redeveloped its website in 2009. The Attorney-General's Office's website is shared with the National Fraud Authority and the total cost of the combined website for the Attorney-General's Office and National Fraud Authority was £62,143.20.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department is responsible for the following websites: Treasury Solicitor's Department, Bona Vacantia, HMCPSI and Government Legal Service.

Since 2003 there has been external design expenditure of £1,400 on the Treasury Solicitor's website (incurred in 2009-10).

The Bona Vacantia website was redesigned in 2009 at a total cost of £42,598.

No external website design expenditure has been incurred by HMCPSI or the Government Legal Service.

The Serious Fraud Office has spent the following amounts on website design, there are no records for expenditure in years before 2006-07.

	£
2006-07	101,802
2008-09	60,288
2009-10	107,114

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Attorney-General how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in the Law Officers' Departments in 2009-10. [9931]

The Attorney-General: The following table details the amount spent by the Law Officers' Departments on remuneration for civil servants in 2009-10. The information provided is drawn from departmental resource accounts for 2009-10 which have recently been presented to the House of Commons.

Department	*Remuneration (£ million)*
TSol[1]	54.181
SFO	15.282
CPS	378.420
NFA	1.364

[1] The Treasury Solicitor's Department resource accounts for 2009-10 also cover staff at the Attorney-General's Office, Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many of the Law Officers' Departments' contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3632]

(2) how many officials in the Law Officers' Departments are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to those Departments as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to those Departments from such renegotiations; how much expenditure those Departments will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3654]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officers' Departments operate a policy of continually reviewing contracts to achieve efficiency savings where possible.

At present the Law Officers Departments, like other Government Departments, are waiting for a direction from OGC as to the suppliers and contracts that may be subject to review and renegotiation, following the work being done by the Efficiency and Reform Group on the efficiency savings programme. We are unclear at present as to which contracts may be affected by this programme, so accordingly cannot currently identify the expected savings or the expenditure the Departments will incur.

Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act 2009

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Attorney-General what legal advice he has given Ministers on their Departments' compliance with section 3 of the Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act 2009. [11014]

The Attorney-General: By long-standing convention, observed by successive administrations and embodied in the Ministerial Code, the fact that the Law Officers have advised (or have not advised) on a particular issue, and the content of any advice, is not disclosed outside government.

Prosecutions: Expenditure

Karl Turner: To ask the Attorney-General what proportion of the budget of the Crown Prosecution Service was spent on frontline prosecution activity in the latest period for which figures are available. [10456]

The Attorney-General: The proportion of the budget of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) spent on frontline prosecution activity for the financial year 2009-10 was approximately 83%. The CPS has defined frontline to mean the costs incurred by the 42 geographical areas, CPS Direct and the four Casework Directorates, together with the appropriate proportion of central overheads such as information technology.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Prime Minister what instructions have been issued by his private office on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9674]

The Prime Minister: We aim to reply to all correspondence swiftly and accurately. My Office has responded to nearly 28,000 letters since 12 May 2010.

EU Budget

Mr Davidson: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the merits of implementing a reduction of *(a)* 25% and *(b)* 40% in departmental expenditure related to UK payments to the European Union budget. [9962]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 946.

Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make an official visit to Israel; and if he will make a statement. [10591]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 99W.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Allen: To ask the Prime Minister what progress has been made towards introducing a limit on the number of special advisers; and what the limit is planned to be. [10259]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to paragraph 3.2 of the Ministerial Code. A list of special advisers was published on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 32WS.

Slovenia: World War Two

Mr MacShane: To ask the Prime Minister if he will issue an apology to the families and descendants of those Slovenes who were forcibly repatriated by the British Army in 1945 and subsequently murdered by the communist authorities of Yugoslavia. [8606]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

The Government share the sense of regret at the loss of life that occurred in Yugoslavia in the aftermath of the second world war. These events are now for historical study and review.

USA

Mr MacShane: To ask the Prime Minister what class of air travel he used for his journey to the United States on 19 July 2010. [10425]

The Prime Minister: As set out in the Ministerial Code, details of all my overseas travel will be published at least quarterly.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Procurement Policy

Mr Sanders: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will review its procurement policy to ensure that all purchases made by the House of Commons Service comply with ethical and environmentally sustainable principles. [10706]

Sir Stuart Bell: The House Administration ensures, when tendering and awarding its contracts, that suppliers give evidence that they will apply best practice in terms of both ethical practice and environmental sustainability. The House's standard form of contract includes terms covering the environment and human rights, making failure to comply a breach of contract and grounds to terminate. Purchasing is carried out under an ethics policy based broadly on that of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

Palace of Westminster and 7 Millbank: Wifi

Chris Leslie: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what plans Parliamentary ICT has to improve wifi connectivity in *(a)* the Palace of Westminster and *(b)* No. 7 Millbank; and if he will make a statement. [10774]

Sir Stuart Bell: Wifi is available in 75 locations across the Estate including all committee rooms and meeting rooms that are bookable by Members as well as other communal areas such as the Portcullis House Atrium and the Members Library. Access to the Parliamentary Network for parliamentary users and guest wifi to the internet is available in all these locations. There are no current plans to extend wifi in No. 7 Millbank. The quality of the wifi service is reported as good and access to the guest service will be simplified over the summer. A limitation to the use of Apple Macintosh laptops has recently been identified and is being resolved.

Select Committees: Transcription Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) whether the House of Commons Commission made an assessment of *(a)* quality and *(b)* accuracy of transcripts provided by remote transcription in (i) the Courts Service and (ii) other comparable institutions in determining the award of the contract for select committee transcription services; [9842]

(2) what process was followed for the *(a)* tender and *(b)* award of the contract for select committee transcription services; and which officers of the House had responsibility for the process; [9843]

(3) what requirements there will be on contractors providing transcription services to select committees under the new contract to provide note-takers to attend select committee evidence sessions; and if he will make a statement; [9844]

(4) for what reasons the arrangements for transcription of evidence taken during meetings of select committees are to be altered; what consultation was carried out on the proposed change; what representations the House of Commons Commission has received on the proposed change; and if he will make a statement; [9845]

(5) what contingency arrangements the House Service has in place in the event of failure of sound recording equipment in committee rooms; [9846]

(6) what assessment the House of Commons Commission has made of the language skills of those contracted to provide transcription services to select committees under the new contract. [9847]

Sir Stuart Bell: The House of Commons and House of Lords jointly have conducted public sector procurement exercises for Select Committee and Private Bill Committee transcription services periodically in the last decade. (Public Bill Committees have always been transcribed directly by the *Official Report* (*Hansard*).) Competitions for contracts beginning in 2002 and 2007 were won by W B Gurney's, a private firm which has carried out this work for a very long period. A review of the requirement for future transcription services was carried out in 2007, taking into account the increasing need for value for money, developments in technology, and the need to maximise the utilisation of the House's existing transcription expertise following reorganisation of the House administration. Those consulted by the review team included a range of other users of transcription services. The review recommended that future contracts should be managed by the *Official Reports* in the two Houses, so as to make better use of the Houses' existing professional expertise, and should build in greater business resilience by including the possibility of awarding work to more than one company. The present contract, subject to the possibility of renewal for up to two years, expires on 31 July 2010 and the competition for the new contract was launched on 23 September 2009. The tenders and award under the competition have followed the process set down by the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, SI 2006 No.5, which, as a Contracting Authority (as defined in the Regulations) both the House of Commons and the House of Lords are bound to follow. The competition has been conducted by a panel comprising senior officials of the Committee Offices and the Editors of the *Official Reports* of both Houses, advised and supported by the House's Commercial Services Directorate, acting on behalf of the Corporate Officers of both Houses. It is the Corporate Officers who have the legal capacity to enter into contracts of this nature on behalf of the House each serves. The House of Commons Commission itself has no direct involvement in procurement exercises of this nature.

Following the competition, contracts for externally transcribed Committee sessions are being awarded to three companies: Ubiqus, Merrill Legal and Marten Walsh Cherer. The criteria governing the competition were set out in the procurement documentation, and included quality of work, reliability and value for money. The contract assessment process has paid full attention to the requirement for quality, with tenderers required to demonstrate their capacity to deliver the services required, including through sample transcripts of other work undertaken, a real-time practical exercise, and evidence of other work carried out by the companies. Separate contractual requirements are not specified for each element of the process, since the objective is to govern the quality of the end product, not the means by which it is achieved. There was thus no requirement for example to consider the specific language skills of the individual staff of potential providers, though the capacity of a tendering company to submit transcripts to a required standard of English was assessed by the process indicated above. Equally, tenderers were not required to commit to specific methods of transcription; there was thus no requirement for the process to assess the quality and accuracy of transcription services using specific methods carried out for other specific users, such as court services (although the Departments of the *Official Report* in both Houses, under the direction of their Editors, keep abreast of professional developments in their field). In practice, as at present, while there will always be a transcriber present in the committee room, some of the transcription work will be via verbatim note-takers, with the remainder via loggers using recordings, though the balance between different methods may differ from the present arrangements. The *Official Report* will continue to provide transcription services for up to 20% of select committee meetings using sub-editors to log meetings, as it has been doing satisfactorily for the past two years. As part of their normal contracted duties, Westminster Sound Systems will ensure that back-up recordings are made of every meeting; in addition, all note-takers and loggers will be required to make their own back-up recordings using mobile digital recording technology. As a further assurance measure all transcripts will be quality checked by the *Official Report*, with no extra delay in the turnaround time, before they are passed to committees. The *Official Report* will be managing the contracts with outside providers.

The new arrangements will create very substantial direct savings for both Houses, as well as making more efficient use of existing *Hansard* resources. Obtaining best value for money in the use of public resources has been an important part of the process. The House of Commons 2010-11 Corporate Business Plan identified 'increased and demonstrable value for money' in services as a strategic objective for the House service. The Commission has agreed a commitment to reduce the Commons Administration budget by 9% over the period 2010-11 to 2012-13.

The Administration Committee and the Chairmen of the Commission and of the Liaison Committee were informed about the contract competition process. The Commission is aware of letters which have been received by a number of right hon. and hon. Members, some of which have been forwarded to the Commission.

Television: Subtitles

Duncan Hames: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will discuss with broadcasters the extension of the provision of subtitles in respect of broadcast proceedings of the House. [11204]

Sir Stuart Bell: Subtitling is a matter for individual broadcasters. The Commission has no plans to discuss the issue, but the hon. Member may wish to raise it with the broadcasters himself.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the comprehensive approach in Afghanistan. [10254]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government's approach to Afghanistan is regularly discussed by the National Security Council (NSC) of which the Secretary of State for Defence and I are both members.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the tarmacking of roads *(a)* between Garmsir and Lashkar Gar, *(b)* between Geresk and Sangin and *(c)* in Sangin town centre. [11149]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The United States are funding the rehabilitation of the road from Lashkar Gah to Garmsir. This will be a gravel road, with the option of tarmacking it later. There are no plans to tarmac it at present.

I am not aware of any plans for tarmacking the Gereshk to Sangin road.

The UK funded district stabilisation team in Sangin is funding tarmacking and improvements to roads in the district centre and through the local bazaar. So far 2km of roads have been completed in the district centre.

We are considering options for further support to transport infrastructure in Helmand.

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has considered funding proposals to develop a railway line between Spin Baldak and Kandahar. [11338]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: While the Department for International Development (DFID) is considering support to a range of transport project, to date no consideration has been given to funding a railway line between Spin Baldak and Kandahar.

Africa: Children

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the government of *(a)* Ghana and *(b)* other African countries on the use of child labour in the recovery of items from e-waste arising in other countries; and if he will make a statement. [11119]

Mr O'Brien: Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers have not discussed the issue of child labour in relation to e-waste with Ghana or other countries.

Child labour is unacceptable and the Government are committed to tackling it. We strongly support the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), which challenges poor labour standards around the world, including child labour, and drives practical measures to improve them. DFID will continue to encourage British businesses to sign up to the initiative and to follow the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which set out good corporate behaviour, including on employment rights and environmental issues.

Cabinet Committees

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times each Cabinet sub-committee he chairs has met since 6 May 2010. [9973]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I do not chair a Cabinet sub-committee.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to change the number of people employed by his Department. [10253]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In line with other Government Departments, the administration budget for the Department for International Development (DFID) will be set during the forthcoming spending review. We will finalise our plans on DFID's staffing structure once the outcome of the review is known.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10116]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State hosted the Department for International Development (DFID) Stakeholder Reception and Launch of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) UK Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Peer Review on 8 July. £306 was spent on non-alcoholic beverages for this event.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9823]

Mr O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development announced on 1 July a significant package of measures to reduce the Department's running costs by over £10 million per annum. This package includes:

the introduction of a new system of allowances for staff posted overseas, saving £2 million per annum over time; the implementation of a new travel policy which will save £1.2 million in 2010-11 by restricting all staff plane or train journeys to economy class unless business class is absolutely necessary;

the rental of two floors in the Department's Palace Street office, which will provide an income of over £2 million per annum;

and a commitment to reduce the size and cost of corporate services, such as HR and IT, by £5 million by 2012-13.

In line with other Government Departments, DFID's administration budget will be set during the forthcoming Spending Review.

My right hon. Friend has also committed the Department to work with other Government departments to reduce its procurement costs, including renegotiating contracts where possible.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9902]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) paid £112 million in total in respect of permanent employed civil servants employed in the UK and overseas in 2009-10.

Departmental Private Education

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department were in receipt of the continuity of education allowance in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was in respect of staff *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* posted overseas. [11480]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The terms and conditions of employment in DFID are set in order to recruit, motivate and retain staff who are skilled and equipped to meet DFID's objectives. Those with children have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five, and they pay UK tax wherever they work. Most parents prefer to take their children with them, but in some countries they are not permitted to do so, either for health or security reasons. Continuity of education is also an important factor, particularly at secondary level.

In financial year 2009-10, 48 members of DFID's staff on overseas postings received an Education Allowance at a total cost of £1,318,810. Two of the 48 employees returned to the UK during the 2009-10 financial year and were eligible to receive education continuity payments at a cost of £30,823.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3643]

Mr O'Brien: There are 13 key suppliers who will have their contracts reviewed as part of this process. The total number of contracts under review is 116 and the total value of the contracts is £628 million.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3665]

Mr O'Brien: Four senior procurement officials will be involved in renegotiating contracts as part of their duties. The potential for and levels of savings will be determined by conducting a review of the top contracts.

Expenditure for this activity relates to engagement with 13 key suppliers and may include telephone, e-mail and face to face meetings.

The Department for International Development is currently within the data gathering and planning phase for this activity and completion time scales are currently undefined.

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7968]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State, Minister of State, Permanent Secretary and I are entitled to use a car from the Government Car Service. No other officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) are entitled to use a car, except when accompanied by a Minister or the Permanent Secretary. DFID does not maintain a record of officials who have travelled in a car from the Government Car Service in this capacity. No expenses have been reimbursed to DFID Ministers or the Permanent Secretary for use of taxis, buses or underground trains since the Government took office.

The Government publish on a quarterly basis the expenses incurred by the most senior officials, which includes use of the Government car service and other travel expenses.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has held on his Department's HIV/AIDS prevention programmes with *(a)* other governments, *(b)* multilateral agencies and *(c)* non-governmental organisations. [9993]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I regularly discuss with a wide range of partners the importance of scaling up effective HIV prevention programmes, such as prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, condom distribution and use, family planning, and addressing underlying factors that fuel the epidemic, such as gender inequality and poverty.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve post-natal care in developing countries. [10762]

Mr O'Brien: Maternal and newborn health is a major priority for the UK Government and an area that the Prime Minister has personally championed. The Department for International Development is developing a new Business Plan focusing on reproductive, maternal and newborn health. This will support a 'continuum of care', ensuring that women have choice over whether and when to have children, and to have access to quality care during pregnancy, childbirth and for the newborn, including in the post-natal period.

The recent G8 summit, which the Prime Minister attended, has delivered a significant boost to efforts to improve maternal, newborn and child health. It is estimated that the G8 Muskoka Initiative will prevent 1.3 million under-fives child deaths, 64,000 maternal deaths and enable an additional 12 million women to have access to modern family planning in the period 2010-15.

At the United Nations Millennium Development Goals summit in September, we will press for international agreement on an action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015. This will include making results-based commitments for the most off track MDGs such as maternal and child health, which are particular priorities for the UK Government.

Developing Countries: Schools

Mr Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has made an assessment of means to encourage increased levels of school attendance in developing countries. [10235]

Mr O'Brien: In 'The Coalition: our programme for government', the Government highlighted their commitment to education, stating that we will prioritise aid spending to ensure all children have access to education and will particularly focus on girls and children with disabilities. The ongoing aid reviews will determine how we can achieve better value for money and accelerate progress towards the MDGs, including the target on education, which is at the heart of the Government's development policy.

We recognise that supporting increased levels of school attendance in developing countries requires a range of interventions including: removing financial barriers to education; addressing specific needs of disadvantaged groups; improving infrastructure; recruiting and training more teachers; and ensuring a quality of learning. In building our strategic approach to education going forward, we will be guided by evidence of what works.

Development Innovation Fund

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for the future of the Development Innovation Fund. [9974]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Development Innovation Fund has been closed. Consultation for a new poverty impact fund is planned for later this month, with a view to launching the fund in the autumn.

International Assistance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on the forthcoming UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals in New York; and if he will make a statement. [11424]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Deputy Prime Minister and I met on 7 July to discuss priorities for the United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals in New York.

International Assistance: Hunger

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the Millennium Development Goal aimed at halving hunger by 2015 is met. [9865]

Mr O'Brien: At the G8 summit last month, the Prime Minister confirmed the Government's commitment to the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, which aims to tackle hunger in developing countries through support for agriculture, food security, and nutrition programmes.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is helping to reduce hunger in partner countries by promoting greater investment in agriculture and through programmes which target the most vulnerable. For example in Ethiopia, UK aid is helping 7.5 million people access more and better quality food. DFID support has contributed to a 15% rise in agricultural production and 11% economic growth in Rwanda. In Bangladesh, agricultural inputs have been provided to over one million people, helping increase incomes by 50%. DFID also aims to prevent malnutrition in 3.5 million children in India over five years, through our support to the health and nutrition sectors.

At the Millennium Development Goal summit in September, the UK Government will press for agreement on a roadmap for achieving all the MDGs by 2015.

Nigeria: International Assistance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's plans are for future development projects in Nigeria; and if he will make a statement. [11482]

Mr O'Brien: Nigeria is a hugely important country to the development of Africa. The Secretary of State has commissioned a review of the Department for International Development's (DFID)'s aid programmes around the world. The Nigeria programme is part of this. The outcome of the review will be used to inform the Department's spending plans, due to be brought to a conclusion in the autumn. In the meantime, DFID is continuing to implement its ongoing programme.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the future of his Department's development projects in Nigeria. [11484]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) maintains regular dialogue with Federal Government counterparts in Abuja and with senior officials at the state level. DFID also maintains contact with a range of civil society organisations on programme issues in Nigeria. The Secretary of State has commissioned a review of DFID's bilateral aid programmes around the world. The Nigeria programme is part of this. The outcome of the review will be used to inform the Department's spending plans, due to be brought to a conclusion in the autumn. In the meantime, DFID is continuing to implement its ongoing programme.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Government of Nigeria on his Department's programmes in that country. [11485]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State and I have not yet had the opportunity to meet representatives of the Government of Nigeria. The British High Commissioner and Head of the Department for International Development (DFID) in Nigeria have called on the President of Nigeria several times over the last two months to discuss his priorities and UK support.

Overseas Aid

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries have been the subject of joint strategies established by his Department with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence since his appointment. [9972]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: None. The UK Government are committed to joined up working. Department for International Development (DFID) officials work closely with colleagues in other Government Departments, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.

I have recently commissioned a review of DFID's bilateral aid programme to ensure we achieve value for money and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. This review will inform country plans to 2014. Other Government Departments will feed into this process.

Vendata Resources

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* financial and *(b)* non-financial support his Department has given to Vendata Resources plc in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [10766]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Based on the information which we hold, the Department for International Development (DFID) does not, and has not in the past, supported Vedanta Resources or its subsidiaries.

Water Supply

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on sourcing and distribution of water in *(a)* Rio de Janeiro, *(b)* Shanghai and *(c)* other areas at threat of increased water stress. [9811]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) work is directed towards poor people living in least developed countries. On this basis, we are not involved in sourcing and distribution of water in either Rio de Janeiro or Shanghai.

DFID supports programmes to address increasing water scarcity in many countries, including Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and India. Our watershed management and rural livelihoods programmes in India have enabled more secure livelihoods for 1.65 million people. DFID also supports the Global Water Partnership, which enables developing countries to plan and prepare for their future water needs, and respond to the challenge of climate change.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Pre-legislative Scrutiny

10. **Mr Allen:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will introduce arrangements for pre-legislative scrutiny of all proposed Government legislation. [10707]

Mr Heath: The Government aim to publish legislation in draft whenever it is appropriate to do so. However, it will not be possible to do so in all cases.

Members: Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals to establish a fund for payment of interns working for hon. Members. [11340]

Sir George Young: The Government have no current plans to do so.

Opposition: Finance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 414W, on Labour Party: finance, how much funding *(a)* in total and *(b)* for staff the Official Opposition Whips Office will receive in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) each of the subsequent two years. [11144]

Sir George Young: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 414W. Separate figures are not available for the funding of the Opposition Whips office.

Oral Questions

Mr Allen: To ask the Leader of the House when he plans to decide on whether questions to the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, will be included in the rota for questions for oral answer. [10858]

Sir George Young: The Government are considering this issue and will inform the House in due course.

Parliamentary Questions

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Leader of the House if he will discuss with ministerial colleagues the practice of answering parliamentary questions by reference to statistical publications on Government websites; and if he will make a statement. [10465]

Sir George Young: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons provides guidance to Departments on the practice of answering parliamentary questions by reference to Government websites. This guidance is available on the Cabinet Office website in the 'Guide to Parliamentary Work', at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide/chapter7.aspx

The guidance states that any information that is on a Government website and is referred to in answer to a parliamentary question should also be supplied to the Member in hard copy, and deposited in the Library. While it may be desirable for answers to parliamentary questions to set out the full information requested, where information is freely available in the public domain, or where the quantity of information would prevent its printing in *Hansard*, it is right that a reference to a website may be the most appropriate way of providing information.

I am depositing this guidance in the House of Commons Library.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Afghan public servants have been killed in each province of Afghanistan in 2010. [8963]

Mr Hague: There are currently no centrally collated figures for 2010 for the number of Afghan public servants killed in each province.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government have spent on private military security companies in Afghanistan in each year of the conflict; and whether any of those employed by such companies have immunity from prosecution. [9928]

Alistair Burt: The amount the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has paid to private security companies for services in Afghanistan is as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	4
2005-06	4
2006-07	15.3
2007-08	20.9
2008-09	22.2
2009-10	13.8

No figures are available for 2001-03 because the first UK security contract in Afghanistan did not start until mid December 2003.

These contracts provide services to other Government Departments. The costs are shared out accordingly.

Private security companies carry out a variety of important duties in Afghanistan, providing close protection of personnel and static protection of our embassy and other premises. They perform a vital and necessary role, and enable the Government to fulfil both its policy objectives and its duty of care to its employees, in challenging environments. By providing essential security services, private security companies ensure other Government Departments, visiting journalists and non-government organisations are able to carry out their important work unhindered.

Members of private security companies who provide security services for a diplomatic mission are treated as performing administrative and technical (A&T) functions for that mission, even if they are not employees of the State concerned. Such people who are employed on FCO contracts are granted immunity from criminal jurisdiction, in accordance with Article 37 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961). However, such immunity has never had to be invoked.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with President Karzai on the appointment of district governors, with particular reference to Qal'ah-ye Zal following the death of Governor Mohammad Nazils. [8965]

Mr Hague: The appointment of district governors is a matter for the Afghan authorities and I have not discussed individual cases with President Karzai. However, during my meeting with him in Afghanistan on 19 July, we did discuss the importance of governance, including at sub-national level. An Afghan Presidential Decree stipulates that deputy district governors and district governors are now classified as civil servants and, as such, subject to Civil Servant Commission appointment procedures. The UK continues to support the merit-based appointment of governors and other officials and was pleased to see the commitment in the Kabul Conference Communiqué that over the next six months the appointment procedures for senior civil servants are to be simplified and made more transparent.

British Nationals Abroad: Capital Punishment

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the number of UK citizens awaiting execution; and in which country each such citizen is imprisoned. [11148]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Eight British nationals have been sentenced to death: four in the USA, one in Ghana, one in Pakistan, one in the Democratic Republic of Congo and one in Afghanistan. In addition, a number of British nationals are facing charges that potentially carry the death penalty.

The government are committed to using all appropriate influence to prevent the execution of any British national.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9671]

Alistair Burt: Private offices communicate ministerial preferences and views to officials as part of normal everyday business.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9899]

Alistair Burt: The total remuneration paid to civil servants in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for 2009-10 is £246,776,125 as laid out in Note 5.1 of the FCO Resource Accounts for 2009-10. This includes remuneration paid to staff at Wilton Park (an FCO agency) but not staff employed by FCO Services. The figure for Wilton Park is £1,973,734.

Departmental Private Education

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of his Department were in receipt of the continuity of education allowance in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was in respect of staff *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* posted overseas. [11479]

Alistair Burt: It is a condition of their employment that members of the diplomatic service must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five years. Members of the diplomatic service pay UK tax wherever they work and are entitled to have their children educated at public expense. Most parents prefer to take their children with them on posting, but in some countries we do not permit staff to take their children either for health or security reasons. In others, local schools of an acceptable standard are not available. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) helps staff meet their potentially conflicting obligations by providing financial support for their children's education in the UK where staff choose this, or are obliged to do so given local conditions in the country to which they are posted. Continuity of education is also an important factor, particularly at secondary level.

During the course of academic year 2009-10, 339 officers received Continuity of Education Allowance for 521 children. This represents about 6% of staff employed in the FCO and FCO Services. Three-quarters of the recipients are below the senior management grade in the FCO, including junior support staff and single parents. Staff serving in the UK were paid £7,487,435, with staff serving at posts overseas receiving £5,843,415.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect on UK representation at the United Nations of recent changes to the powers granted to the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to *(a)* speak and *(b)* act on behalf of (i) the EU and (ii) its member states. [9961]

Mr Lidington: I have considered carefully the powers granted by the Lisbon treaty to the High Representative to speak and act externally on behalf of the EU. Those powers leave largely unchanged the allocation of competences between the EU and its member states respectively. Nor do they alter the rights and responsibilities of the representatives of EU member states to speak and act on their own behalf at the United Nations. We keep implementation of this and all aspects of the Lisbon treaty under constant review, to ensure that functions are allocated and performed strictly in accordance with the treaty.

My written ministerial statement of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 31-32WS, explained that we had agreed that the EU should seek additional rights for itself as an Observer in the UN General Assembly in order to represent the EU and its member states effectively in that forum, in the same way as the member state holding the EU rotating presidency has done. As that statement made clear, those additional observer rights would not affect the rights and responsibilities of UK representatives at the United Nations to speak and act on our behalf in the UN General Assembly. EU representatives will continue to sit with other international organisations and not with the UN's member states.

European Parliament Members: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, on the European Parliament Transitionary Protocol, what the estimated cost to the European Union of the 18 additional MEPs will be between now and 2014. [8600]

Mr Lidington: The additional MEPs will be subject to the same reimbursement arrangements as current serving MEPs. The monthly post-EU tax salary of an MEP is currently set at €6,083.91. This is paid from the European Parliament's budget. In addition to this salary, MEPs are entitled to a number of allowances, including travel expenses, daily allowance and general expenditure allowance. More details can be found on the European Parliament's website:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/expert/multimedia/20090511MLT55628/media_20090511MLT55628.pdf

The transitionary protocol has to be ratified by all 27 EU member states before the additional MEPs can formally take up their seats, so it is not possible to make a definitive calculation of cost as it is not known when this will be. However, all expenditure will come from the European Parliament's share of the EU budget.

European Parliament Members: Germany

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, on the European Parliament Transitionary Protocol, for what reasons the three additional German MEPs will not be standing down before 2014; and what the estimated cost to the European Union will be of maintaining those MEPs until 2014. [8601]

Mr Lidington: Under article 5 of the EU Act concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage (20 September 1976), it is not possible for the EU to curtail an MEP's mandate during a parliamentary term or, therefore, to reduce the current number of MEPs in the German delegation within the European Parliament. The Act only provides for vacancies under article 13 (1) in cases where a seat falls vacant due to the mandate of an MEP ending as a result of resignation, death or withdrawal of the mandate by the member state of the MEP.

European Parliament: Publications

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, on the European Parliament Transitionary Protocol, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agreed Protocol and *(b)* minutes of the intergovernmental conference. [8602]

Mr Lidington: I will place a copy of the signed protocol in the Library of both Houses. There are no minutes of the intergovernmental conference (IGC), though the principle was agreed by the European Council in its Conclusions of December 2008 and June 2009. These are available in the House Library.

The then Minister for Europe informed the Scrutiny Committees last December that an IGC would be taking place and for what reasons, and the hon. Member will be aware of my written ministerial statement after the IGC had taken place.

Gambia: Capital Punishment

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of Gambia on behalf of British citizen Deborah Burns, whose husband Brigadier General Omar Bun Mbye has been sentenced to the death penalty for treason in that country. [10757]

Alistair Burt: Our acting high commissioner to Banjul, in his capacity as the permanent acting representative of the presidency of the EU delivered a statement by the High Representative of the EU to the Gambian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 20 July 2010 expressing deep concern over the death sentence pronounced against Brigadier General Omar Bun Mbye and seven other people accused of treason and conspiracy. The statement, also released in the Gambian press, urged the Gambian authorities not to carry out executions in respect of the convicted individuals, to respect their right of appeal and to ensure a fair trial is fully guaranteed.

Our acting high commissioner to The Gambia is in regular contact with Brigadier Mbyes' wife, Deborah Burns, and we will continue to monitor this case closely.

India: Mining

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions on the likely effect on indigenous people's land of Vendata Resources plc's proposed bauxite mine in Orisha, India. [10767]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not been involved in discussions with Vedanta about this issue. However, in February 2010, our high commissioner to India met with a representative of Vedanta and raised concerns surrounding the company's project in Orissa.

Israel

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to projects designed to promote equality between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel. [10744]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Tel Aviv has provided over £40,000 over the last year to promote equality and understanding between Israel's Arab and Jewish citizens. This includes support to the Abraham Fund Initiative for projects focused on the Arabic language, increasing dialogue, raising awareness and work placement initiatives. We have also supported the Hand In Hand centre's co-education project. We will continue to press the Israeli Government to respect and promote the rights of all minorities in Israel.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the teaching of Arabic in Israel. [10745]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Israel regularly engages with the Government of Israel and with Israeli civil society on education matters. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv last spoke to the Israeli Minister of Education, Gidon Sa'ar, about the teaching of Arabic in Israel in September 2009. We welcome the support his Ministry have subsequently given to an Arabic teaching initiative, supported by the UK, called Language as a Cultural Bridge. This initiative enables children from Jewish and Palestinian families in schools in the Galilee to learn more about each others culture and language.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Nigeria. [10363]

Alistair Burt: We commend the Government of Nigeria for the smooth and constitutional succession of President Goodluck Jonathan, after the sad death of President Yar'Adua on 5 May 2010. Since assuming the Presidency, President Jonathan has made welcome commitments on his determination to address corruption, conflict in the Niger Delta and in Nigeria's middle-belt, and to bring about lasting electoral reform during his term as President.

It will be vital for Nigeria that its government delivers on these commitments, particularly building on the reconstitution of the Independent National Electoral Commission, to achieve credible and peaceful Presidential and Gubernatorial elections in 2011. The UK, through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development and partners in the international community, are continuing to support Nigeria in these efforts.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 516W, on Palestinians: international assistance, what steps he is taking to seek to *(a)* enable exportation of permitted goods and *(b)* encourage the Israeli government to remove building materials from the list of banned items; and if he will make a statement. [10978]

Alistair Burt: I agree that there is a pressing need to alleviate the economic situation in Gaza. It is in Israel's long-term interests to create an environment where Gaza's economy can flourish. We have been clear that Israel should allow greater movement of goods both into and out of Gaza, while recognising Israel has real security concerns. My EU colleagues and I will continue to push for the export of goods and services from Gaza.

Israel has agreed to let in construction materials for use in building projects, such as the rehabilitation or reconstruction of schools and clinics, which have been approved by the Palestinian Authority and which will be overseen by the UN or international aid agencies. We understand Israeli concerns about the end use of dual-use items. However, although 31 such projects have been accepted in the last week by Israel, Israeli implementation procedures remain cumbersome and slow. We will continue to lobby Israel to streamline the process to ensure that that essential reconstruction work is not held up.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 516W, on Palestinians: international assistance, what discussions he plans to have *(a)* at EU level and *(b)* with the (i) Israeli and (ii) Palestinian government on delivering real change; and what priorities he has set for his policy on Gaza. [10992]

Alistair Burt: Our key priorities are:

to ensure that Israel implements the commitments it has made regarding access and to allow exports out of Gaza;

to put into place workable monitoring systems for dual use items; and

that the Palestinian Authority has sufficient capacity to prioritise and facilitate the entry of goods into Gaza;

and that non-governmental organisations are ready and work together.

We will discuss these priorities at the regular EU Foreign Affairs Council, as well as at the official level at frequent EU working groups. We also continue to discuss the need for concrete progress on Gaza at ministerial and official level with both the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the situation in Somalia. [11147]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are deeply concerned by the crisis in Somalia. Insecurity and instability threaten the lives of Somalis and Somalia is home to the worst humanitarian crisis per capita in the world. The attacks in Kampala, which Al Shabaab has claimed responsibility for, demonstrate the threat that instability in Somalia poses beyond its borders. The UK is working with Somalis and the UN, EU, US and regional actors to address the situation.

Somalia is a high priority for this Government and it will be a central focus of discussions my hon. Friend Henry Bellingham, Minister for Africa, intends to have during his visit to the region.

Uzbekistan: Sterilisation

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the incidence of forced sterilisation in Uzbekistan; what recent representations he has made to the Government of Uzbekistan on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [10551]

Mr Lidington: Our embassy in Tashkent is aware of recent media and non-governmental organisation reports of forced sterilisation in Uzbekistan, although these have not been the subject of our recent exchanges with the Government of Uzbekistan. We remain concerned at the overall level of respect for human rights in Uzbekistan, and regularly raise these concerns through a critical but constructive dialogue with the Uzbek authorities in Tashkent and in discussions with the Uzbek embassy in London. In doing so, we encourage Uzbekistan to act in accordance with its international obligations. Most recently, I discussed the human rights situation in Uzbekistan with the Uzbekistan Foreign Minister in the margins of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Ministerial held in Almaty on 16 to 17 July.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what consultation he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to undertake with residents of (i) the Isle of Wight, (ii) Orkney and Shetland and Western Isles, (iii) Ross, Skye and Lochaber and (iv) elsewhere on his proposals on the equalisation of the size of constituencies. [8962]

Mr Harper: The Government's proposals for more equal constituency sizes are based upon the principle that votes should have more equal weight. This was set out clearly in the coalition programme and the Government have not consulted further on this principle. However, Parliament will have the opportunity to debate the Bill's provisions in full and residents in all proposed constituencies will be able to make representations to the Boundary Commissions on their proposed recommendations.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the oral statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-5W, on political and constitutional reform, what account he took of the proposed referendum on the transfer of legislative powers under Part 4 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 to the National Assembly for Wales in his proposals for boundary changes to constituencies. [8995]

Mr Harper: The Government's proposals for more equal constituency sizes for the House of Commons will ensure that votes have more equal weight. The legislation does take account of the link between parliamentary constituencies and Welsh Assembly Government constituencies; the link between the two will be broken so that fewer parliamentary constituencies in future would not lead to a concomitant reduction in the size of the Assembly.

Graham Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his proposed review of the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies will contemplate the drawing of constituency boundaries across the existing boundaries of *(a)* metropolitan and *(b)* non-metropolitan counties. [9165]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill introduced on 22 July contains provision for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. Under the new rules set out in the Bill, the Boundary Commissions may take into account local government boundaries, subject to the rule requiring that the number of registered electors in a constituency is within 95-105% of a UK electoral quota.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what the cost to the public purse was of the Boundary Commission review held prior to the 2010 General Election; [9804]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the proposed Boundary Commission review to be held before the next general election; and if he will make a statement. [9805]

Mr Harper: The previous general review of parliamentary constituencies cost a total of £13.6 million—this is the total figure for each of the last boundary reviews in the UK although they did not take place simultaneously.

The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, introduced on 22 July 2010, makes provision for a boundary review to be completed in each part of the UK before October 2013. The precise cost of the reviews will depend on the final form of the legislation and the approach adopted by the Boundary Commissions, and we are continuing to discuss resourcing with them. However, we anticipate that the total cost will be less than the aggregate cost of the last set of reviews.

Constituencies: River Mersey

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will ensure that the proposed review of boundaries of parliamentary constituencies recognises the River Mersey as a natural boundary which cannot be crossed by constituencies. [9542]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill contains a revised set of rules for the redistribution of seats by the Boundary Commissions. The Bill would amend Schedule 2 of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 and provide that a Boundary Commission may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit, special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency. This would however, be subject to the requirement for constituencies to be within 5% either side of the UK electoral quota. It will be a matter for the Boundary Commissions to interpret the legislation as they conduct the boundary review.

Electoral Systems

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of counting votes for parliamentary constituencies under *(a)* the alternative vote system and *(b)* the first past the post system. [8091]

Mr Harper: The estimate made before the general election in May 2010 of the cost of counting the votes at that poll was £6 million. This was based on estimates of turnout in each constituency and the time it would take to verify and count the number of ballot papers.

The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, introduced on 22 July, sets out the detail of the alternative vote system that is to be the subject of the referendum. It is, however, not possible to quantify with certainty what the extra cost of counting votes under the alternative vote would be: this will be dependent to a significant extent on the preferences expressed by voters.

In a general election using the alternative vote system, the count process may take longer in cases where no candidate wins outright on the first round as it will be necessary in these cases to count the further preferences of voters in order to determine the winning candidate. This will take some extra time, although precisely how much is difficult to predict as it would depend on how many candidates won outright on the first round, and how many further rounds of counting were necessary to determine the winner. As now, voter turnout, the total number of votes cast and any re-counting of votes will also impact upon the length and cost of the count. We have not yet made a detailed estimate of the cost that would result from different combinations of turnout, voting patterns and rounds of counting.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of holding a general election under *(a)* the first past the post system, *(b)* the alternative vote system and *(c)* other systems of proportional representation. [9807]

Mr Harper: Based on the information set out in the Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2010, the estimated cost of the conduct of the UK parliamentary election in Great Britain which was held under the first past the post system on 6 May is £82.1 million. This figure takes into account the reduced costs of holding the UK parliamentary election on the same day as local government elections. The estimated cost of the 2010 UK parliamentary election in Northern Ireland was £2.5 million. The overall figures will be finalised once all claims from acting returning officers in Great Britain and the chief electoral officer for Northern Ireland (who are statutorily responsible for running the poll) have been received and finalised. The estimated cost of holding a stand-alone UK parliamentary election across the whole of the UK under the first past the post system is £92.1 million.

The features of a general election using the alternative vote system would broadly be the same as under the existing system: for example, in terms of the provision of ballot papers and polling stations. However, it is not possible to quantify with certainty what would be the extra cost of counting votes under the alternative vote would be: this will be dependent to a significant extent on the preferences expressed by voters.

We have not made any estimates of the possible cost of conducting a general election under other systems of proportional representation.

Members

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the reductions in public expenditure which will arise from the proposed reduction in the number of hon. Members following the next general election; and if he will make a statement. [9806]

Mr Harper: The reduction in the number of MPs could deliver savings of at least £12 million per annum. This takes into account MP's pay, pensions and expenses.

Political Parties: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to bring forward proposals on political donations and party funding; and if he will make a statement. [10072]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister indicated during the debate on the address on 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 42 the Government will pursue an agreement on limiting donations and reforming party funding to remove big money from politics. We are considering our approach to party funding as part of the Government's overall programme of reforms, and an announcement will be made in due course.

Referendums

Mr Brady: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to provide that only British citizens may vote in referendums. [11154]

Mr Harper: The Government have no plans to restrict the franchise for referendums in general so that only British citizens are eligible to vote. Although the legal requirements for referendums are set out in the Political Parties and Referendums Act 2000, the question of who is entitled to vote in any particular referendum will be considered and determined in the light of the subject matter of that referendum. The franchise for the referendum on the Alternative Vote system is set out in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, which the Government published on Thursday 22 July. Anyone who is entitled to vote in Westminster parliamentary elections will be entitled to vote in the referendum—this means that British, Republic of Ireland and qualifying Commonwealth citizens who are aged over 18 and who are registered to vote in parliamentary elections can vote in the referendum. In addition, those members of the House of Lords who are eligible to vote in local or European parliamentary elections will be eligible to vote in this referendum.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11384]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) made the following percentage of payments to suppliers within 10 days of receipt of invoice:

2010	*Percentage*
April	87
May	95
June	98

It is not possible to isolate payments made to small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers.

On 12 April, responsibility for policing and justice in Northern Ireland was devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Executive. During the time leading up to devolution, the Department had to refocus priorities and this led to a reduction in prompt payment performance in April 2010. It has subsequently returned to achieve the target to pay 95% of suppliers within 10 working days.

It is not possible to isolate the information relating to payments made within agreed payment terms.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11709]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), as it is now configured post the devolution of policing and justice powers on 12 April, has staff representatives and not full-time dedicated trade union representatives. They are not paid for this role. Dedicated facilities are not provided.

JUSTICE

Art Works

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on works of art since 2005. [6068]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) came into existence in May 2007, encompassing the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and part of the Home Office.

For new builds and refurbishments, artwork is considered part of the fixtures and fittings and isn't separately accounted for.

The only specific expenditure on artwork in 2007-08 and 2008-09 related to art installations in the Ministry of Justice's then newly refurbished headquarters building at 102 Petty France (formerly Queen Anne's Gate). This work was originally commissioned at an estimated cost of £470,000. This was later revised down to £290,000. £208,000 was spent in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and a further £45,000 in 2009-10 bringing the work in under budget at £253,000.

A further £98,000 was spent in 2009-10, £97,000 related to the newly renovated Supreme Court building in Middlesex Guildhall. The Ministry of Justice was responsible for setting up the Supreme Court which has operated as an independent Government Department since October 2009. The remaining £1,000 was incurred by Her Majesty's Courts Service.

Claims Standards Council: Codes of Practice

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons Kerobo's licence for claims management was suspended; what process his Department undertook before lifting that suspension; on what date that suspension was lifted; and if he will make a statement. [10787]

Mr Djanogly: Businesses providing regulated claims management services must comply with strict conduct rules as a condition of their authorisation. The Claims Management Regulation Unit at the Ministry of Justice investigates any suspected breaches of the rules. Appropriate enforcement action is taken, in line with the statutory powers provided under the Compensation Act 2006 and the claims management regulation enforcement policy, against businesses that have failed to comply.

The authorisation of Kerobo Claims Limited was suspended because the business had breached the conduct rules. Suspension is a measure that prohibits a business from providing regulated services for a defined period, during which the breaches may be addressed. Where a business is able to take steps to comply with the rules, its authorisation may be reinstated. Kerobo agreed to a number of strict undertakings, which it has published on its website, and suspension was lifted on 8 July 2010. Those undertakings prevent the business from taking on new clients but enable it to complete existing claims for those clients who wish to proceed and to make refunds to customers to whom they are due.

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department takes to monitor licensed claims management companies' compliance with regulatory requirements; what process it follows to investigate suspected breaches of such compliance; which claims management companies have been so investigated in the last two years; and what the outcome was in each case. [10788]

Mr Djanogly: The Claims Management Regulation Unit in the Ministry of Justice uses a number of methods to monitor compliance with the regulatory requirements. When a business is authorised they are risk rated. Businesses considered as medium or high risk are actively monitored and regular information is sought on consumer contracts, claims acquisition methods, referral arrangements and the content of marketing materials to assess whether the claims management service being provided is compliant. The Claims Management Regulation Unit receives significant intelligence from on average 1,500 contacts per month from consumers, other enforcement bodies such as trading standards departments and organisations that receive claims.

Where analysis of this information identified suspected rule breaches the relevant claims management businesses may be subject to a paper or on site audit, directed to take remedial actions, issued with warnings, required to agree to formal undertakings. All investigations are conducted following the National Intelligence Model which is used by the police to gather and assess intelligence.

Nearly 500 investigations have been conducted in the last two years. We are not able to publish the outcomes in respect of all individual businesses. In general the outcomes include no further action as the business has immediately complied, the agreement of specific undertakings, attachment of additional conditions on the businesses' authorisation and the suspension or cancellation of authorisation. 191 cancellations have been issued since the introduction of statutory regulation in 2007. Details of all the businesses suspended or cancelled are posted on the claims management website at:

www.claimsregulation.gov.uk

Convictions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the conviction rate for *(a)* theft, *(b)* burglary of a dwelling and *(c)* offences of domestic violence when calculated from the initial complaint was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [10402]

Mr Blunt: The conviction rate for defendants proceeded against for offences of theft, and burglary in a dwelling, England and Wales, from 1999 to 2008 (latest available), is given in the table as follows. Information on when the initial complaint was made is not available centrally on the court proceedings database.

The court proceedings database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. This information does not include the circumstances of each case or hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought. It is not possible to separately identify domestic violence offences from other offences of assault and violence against the person.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and the conviction rate[1] for theft, and burglary in a dwelling, England and Wales, 1999 to 2008[2, 3]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (percentage)
Theft			
1999	144,520	114,061	79
2000	142,480	113,230	79
2001	143,702	113,925	79

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and the conviction rate[1] for theft, and burglary in a dwelling, England and Wales, 1999 to 2008[2, 3]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (percentage)
2002	143,838	114,174	79
2003	133,491	106,899	80
2004	119,407	99,626	83
2005	110,671	94,279	85
2006	105,995	91,025	86
2007	111,877	98,144	88
2008[4]	114,612	103,407	90
Burglary in a dwelling			
1999	26,211	16,387	63
2000	23,487	14,471	62
2001	23,441	13,684	58
2002	24,636	14,622	59
2003	23,644	14,540	61
2004	20,310	13,503	66
2005	18,226	12,820	70
2006	17,142	12,442	73
2007	17,570	13,138	75
2008[4]	18,123	13,471	74

[1] Proportion of defendants proceeded against who were found guilty.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the process by which convictions become spent. [11490]

Mr Blunt: The process by which convictions become spent is governed by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; I have met groups, such as Nacro and Unlock, who have an interest in this Act. The Ministry of Justice is undertaking a comprehensive assessment of sentencing and rehabilitation policies, which will involve consideration of the implications for the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Corruption: Legislation

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what meetings he and his officials have had with *(a)* non-governmental organisations and *(b)* business organisations on guidance under section 9 of the Bribery Act 2010; [10003]

(2) what written representations he has received on the guidance to be produced under section 9 of the Bribery Act 2010. [10004]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since taking office, no meetings have been held with non-governmental organisations or business organisations on guidance under section 9 of the Bribery Act. We have received written representations from the CBI, International Chamber of Commerce, GlaxoSmithKline, the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, Transparency International (UK), Tearfund and the Bond Governance Group on the guidance under section 9 and the implementation of the Act generally.

We announced on 20 July that we would be holding a public consultation exercise on the form and content of guidance to be issued under section 9 of the Act, beginning in late summer with a view to publishing guidance early in the new year in preparation for commencement of the Act in the spring of 2011.

Debt Management

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate has been made of the number of individuals that will enter into debt management plans where fees have been charged in each month until the end of 2010; [9832]

(2) which organisations responded to the consultation on debt management schemes that closed on 18 December 2009; and when a Government response to that consultation will be published. [9833]

Mr Djanogly: There are currently very little empirical data relating to debt management plans. It is estimated that 100,000 to 150,000 individual plans are created each year. However, there are no definitive data on the proportion of these where fees are charged.

The consultation on debt management schemes that closed on 18 December 2009 looked at the way that debtors deal with their indebtedness. It asked for evidence on whether the powers contained in chapter 4 of part 5 of the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act (TCEA) 2007 to approve operators of debt management schemes (DMS) should be introduced or whether the taking of other steps to make sure that debtors are protected and creditors' interests are safeguarded would be more appropriate.

An initial impact assessment was published alongside the consultation paper which considered the potential effectiveness of all of the options contained in the consultation paper. The impact assessment contained a number of questions which sought to obtain information relating to debt management plans. However, the few responses to these questions contained very little factual information relating to these plans.

A total of 57 responses to the consultation were received from a variety of organisations, including those from the creditor, debt management scheme operator, debt advice, legal and Government sectors as well as individuals.

Officials at the MoJ have recently completed a full analysis of the views and opinions offered by all interested parties to the debt management consultation and the Government intend to publish their response to the consultation shortly.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9822]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has made progress in reducing its running costs and has plans in place to reduce these costs further.

Under the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07), the Department agreed to deliver over £1 billion net of costs and cash releasing Value for Money savings by 2010-11 equating to over 3% per annum and a 5% real reduction in the Department's administration budget. Initiatives contributing to these savings include:

Specification, Benchmarking and Costing in the National Offender Management Service. This is a framework of costed specifications for all offender services delivered in prisons which drive better commissioning of outcomes and ensure resources are targeted at the most effective work with offenders.

Reducing regional and headquarters overheads across Her Majesty's Courts Service.

Introducing standard operation procedures in the tribunals system through the use of Lean methodology, which is examining how work is processed and the efficiencies that can be realised by transferring processing activities to one location.

The Department has also identified further savings of £325 million for 2010-11 as part of the Government's £6.2 billion Emergency Budget, implemented to tackle the national deficit. These savings, and a number of new financial controls, have been targeted to protect the most essential front line work and reduce running costs by:

Further reducing discretionary spend in areas such as consultancy, travel, events and postage, including in our arm's length bodies.

Reviewing change programmes and information and communications technology spend and a moratorium on all new information and communications technology projects above £1 million.

Further tightening recruitment through a recruitment freeze on all but essential front line and business critical posts, which will also be subject to robust internal controls and challenge.

Putting a freeze across the Ministry of Justice including its arm's length bodies, during 2010-11, on all new advertising and marketing with robust internal controls and challenge on activity under £25,000 or applications for exemptions.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9903]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) employs over 94,500 staff in headquarters and its four Executive agencies—the National Offender Management Service (including 35 local probation trusts), Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian. In the 2009-10 financial year, remuneration paid to directly employed staff on both open and fixed ended contracts came to £2.6 billion.

A more detailed breakdown will soon be available in the MoJ Resource Accounts 2009-10 which will be presented to Parliament in the near future.

Violence: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a member of staff in each secure training centre has *(a)* made alternate elbow strikes to a child's ribs, *(b)* used extended fingers to strike a child in the groin area and *(c)* used an inverted knuckle driven inward and upward into a child's sternum in each of the last five years; and for what purpose in each case. [10876]

Mr Blunt: These techniques, called 'breakaway techniques', can only be used lawfully by staff in extreme circumstances as self-defence when their own safety is genuinely at risk. Data provided by the Youth Justice Board indicate that no members of staff in secure training centres have used any of these techniques in the past five years.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of reversing his Department's decision to require courts to charge a victim's surcharge for crimes in circumstances in which no victim of crime is identified; and if he will take steps to raise more revenue by seeking to collect previously uncollected fines. [10873]

Mr Blunt: HM Courts Service (HMCS) takes the issue of fine enforcement very seriously and is working to ensure we clamp down on fine dodgers. Collecting outstanding debt is a continued priority nationwide.

We have no plans to curtail the current application of the surcharge, even for offences where there is not a known identified victim. This Government take all crime seriously and recognise the potential for causing harm and the undesirable impact on society. I therefore have no plans to exclude these offenders from the responsibility of contributing directly to support for victims.

However, we do not want the victim surcharge to continue to disproportionately impact motorists. Officials are exploring the means of extending the surcharge to other disposals.

Immigration and Asylum

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* immigration and *(b)* asylum new matter starts were issued where (i) an appeal had already been lodged and (ii) a previous matter start had been issued to a previous legal representative for that appeal in (A) 2008 and (B) 2009. [10917]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission does not hold data in a form to provide the information requested. Matter Starts (or New Matter Starts) are awarded to legal aid service providers on an annual basis. Providers are entitled to use these matter starts where a client's case satisfies the statutory means and merits test.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to HM Courts Service's consultation on proposals on the provision of courts services in North and West Yorkshire, what assessment he has made of the estimate that *(a)* the closure of Keighley magistrates court would result in maintenance savings of around £225,000 and *(b)* the closure of Keighley county court would result in maintenance savings of around £475,000. [9923]

Mr Djanogly: As indicated in the consultation papers, if these courts were to close it would remove the need for HMCS investment in backlog maintenance. These are not, therefore, savings but cost-avoidance.

The maintenance backlog figures given in the consultation papers are based on data as at July 2009 (the most recent at time of publication). The figures will be updated with July 2010 data for the purpose of the impact assessment which will be published alongside the consultation responses.

Closure of all 157 courts covered in the consultation would achieve running cost savings of around £15.3 million per year. These courts also have backlog maintenance of around £21.5 million, costs that can be avoided if the closures go ahead.

Miscarriages of Justice

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases his Department has discussed with the Criminal Cases Review Commission in the last two years following allegations of miscarriages of justice being drawn to the Department's attention. [11137]

Mr Djanogly: Neither Ministers nor officials from the Ministry of Justice have discussed any cases with the Criminal Cases Review Commission in the last two years. Such discussions would be inappropriate given the Commission's independence in its consideration of individual cases.

Money Laundering: Convictions

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there have been for offences related to money laundering in each of the last five years. [11337]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences of money laundering, England and Wales, from 2004 to 2008 (latest available), is given in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for 'money laundering offences'[1], England and Wales, 2004-08[2, 3, 4]

	Found guilty
2004	209
2005	596
2006	1,276
2007	1,348
2008	1,286

[1] Includes offences under:
Drug Trafficking Act 1994, Sec 49 (previously Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990, Sec 14);
Drug Trafficking Act 1994, Sec 50 (previously Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986, Sec 24);
Drug Trafficking Act 1994 , Sec 51 (previously S23A Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 as inserted by S16 Criminal Justice Act 1993);
Drug Trafficking Act 1994, Sec 52;
Drug Trafficking Act 1994, Sec 53;
Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 93A as inserted by S29 Criminal Justice Act 1993;
Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 93B as inserted by S30 Criminal Justice Act 1993;
Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 93C as inserted by S31 Criminal Justice Act 1993;
Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 93D as inserted by S32 Criminal Justice Act 1993;
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Secs 327 and 334(1);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Secs 328 and 334(1);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Secs 329 and 334(1);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Secs 330 and 334(1);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Secs 331 and 334(1);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Secs 332 and 334(1);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Secs 333 and 334(1);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Sec 336;
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Sec 342;
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Sec 359(3) and (4);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Sec 359(1) and (2);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Sec 366(1) and (2);
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Sec 366(3) and (4);

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Prison Sentences

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Parole Board to have completed processing the backlog of assessments for prisoners during imprisonment for public protection sentences under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2005. [10592]

Mr Blunt: The Parole Board has been working hard with its sponsor unit in the Ministry of Justice to recruit additional members to help deal with the backlog of oral hearings. The recruitment of 59 judges and 48 independent members (including specialists) is now complete. The large programme of training necessary to allow them to sit on parole panels will be completed in October. The board is already sitting a record number of oral panels: In 2009-10 it considered 1,432 Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (IPP) sentenced prisoners. The board estimates that the current backlog will be reduced by around 25% over the course of 2010-11 and will be eliminated during 2012-13.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are serving a sentence for imprisonment for public protection by *(a)* age band

and *(b)* gender; and how many (i) have exceeded their tariff and (ii) have not completed offender treatment programmes in each such case. [10594]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of offenders serving a sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) or detention for public protection (DPP) on 5 July 2010 and the number of these who were past tariff on that date, broken down by gender and age-band. These figures do not include offenders who have been released on licence and remain in the community.

The figures in the table are rounded to the nearest 10.

	Women		*Men*		*All*	
Age band	*Total*	*Past tariff*	*Total*	*Past tariff*	*Total*	*Past tariff*
Less than 18	[1]5	0	40	[1]5	40	[1]5
18-20	[1]5	[1]5	250	70	250	70
21-24	20	20	1,120	550	1,140	570
25-29	40	30	1,320	640	1,350	670
30-39	60	40	1,550	740	1,610	780
40-49	30	20	1,140	480	1,170	500
50-59	10	10	380	180	390	180
60 and over	[1]5	[1]5	170	90	170	90
	170	110	5,960	2,750	6,130	2,850

[1] Less than

The figures were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. As a result, snapshots taken on consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

The requested breakdown of the number of offenders who have not completed offending behaviour programmes can currently be obtained only by incurring disproportionate cost.

IPP prisoners may be identified as suitable for inclusion in specific offending behaviour programmes, depending on the nature of their offending and their identified risk factors. The total number of offenders serving an IPP sentence in prison who had not completed at least one course by 5 July 2010 was 2,120. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 10. This information was taken from a database held by the Public Protection and Mental Health Group at the National Offender Management Service.

Prison: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on constructing a new prison in north Wales. [10747]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has been conducting a search since October 2009 for suitable sites for a new 1,500 place prison in North Wales (as well as in other areas of strategic need).

At the present time, several sites in the North Wales area have been suggested by members of the public and local authorities. Preliminary scoring of these and others identified is still being carried out. No decisions have yet been taken.

Along with other Government Departments, the Ministry of Justice is currently subject to a spending review. Any final decisions on new capacity, as well as long-term decisions on prison capacity programmes, are subject to the outcome of this review.

Prisoners: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were caught in possession of drugs in each of the last three years; and how many of these had their prison sentence lengthened as a result. [10268]

Mr Blunt: Data on adjudications count the number of offences and punishments given rather than the number of prisoners charged with those offences. The following table gives details of offences punished, the total number of punishments given and the number of times additional days were given as a punishment for possession of drugs in 2007, 2008 and 2009:

Possession of a controlled drug

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Number of offences	1,292	1,074	1,048
Number of punishments given	2,154	1,788	1,698
Of which additional days given	422	351	415

Source:
Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007 to 2009

The figures are taken from Table 8.4 of the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin 'Offender Management Caseload Statistics' for 2007, 2008 and 2009, available at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Legal Aid

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much of the legal aid budget was spent on cases involving prisoners in each of the last three years. [10263]

Mr Djanogly: Legal aid expenditure in the prison law category, including free standing advice and assistance and advocacy assistance at prison discipline and parole board hearings, during each of the three most recent years for which figures are available is shown in the following table. The expenditure for 2009-10 will be available once the Legal Services Commission have published their accounts.

	Prison law expenditure (£ million)
2006-07	12.49
2007-08	15.99
2008-09	21.61

These figures do not include criminal legal aid for trials or any appeals against conviction or sentence.

Prisoners may also receive legal aid in civil categories of law. It is not possible to identify how much legal aid other than prison law was spent on prisoners as the status of an individual as a prisoner does not form part of the criteria for granting legal aid. Prisoners seeking legal aid, like other legal aid applicants, must satisfy the means test and merits test for legal aid.

Prisoners: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of people who had previously served community sentences or other non-custodial sentences were sent to prison for *(a)* one year or less and *(b)* more than one year in each of the last three years. [10264]

Mr Blunt: Figures for the number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody for indictable offences, by sentence length and previous sentence history are presented in the following table, for years 2006 to 2008, the most recent data available.

The figures shown are a further breakdown of the criminal history statistics presented in chapter 6 of "Sentencing Statistics 2008" which was published on 28 January 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Occasions when a custodial sentence was given for an indictable offence[1], England and Wales, 2006-08

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Custodial sentence of one year or less			
Number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody	55,978	57,717	61,641
Of which:			
Number with at least one previous non-custodial sentence	49,824	50,645	54,375
Percentage with at least one previous non-custodial sentence	89.0	87.7	88.2
Custodial sentence of more than one year			
Number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody	27,003	26,820	29,095
Of which:			
Number with at least one previous non-custodial sentence	22,429	21,886	23,562
Percentage with at least one previous non-custodial sentence	83.1	81.6	81.0
Custodial sentence of any length			
Number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody	82,981	84,537	90,736
Of which:			
Number with at least one previous non-custodial sentence	72,253	72,531	77,937
Percentage with at least one previous non-custodial sentence	87.1	85.8	85.9

[1] The figures are counts of primary offences as recorded on the Police National Computer. An offender who received a custodial sentence on more than one occasion during this period will appear in these figures on each occasion.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners had their sentence lengthened while in prison in the last five years. [10269]

Mr Blunt: This information is not held in the precise form requested. The National Offender Management Service records the number of findings of guilt against prisoners at internal disciplinary hearings (adjudications) where additional days were imposed. This information is given in the following table. Some prisoners may have received more than one award of added days.

Number of punishments of additional days imposed

	Punishments
2005	12,040
2006	12,566
2007	13,460
2008	12,792
2009	11,550

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many attacks on prison staff were made by prisoners in each of the last three years; and how many prisoners had their prison sentence lengthened as a result in each of those years. [10267]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service does not record the number of attacks on prison staff, rather it records assault incidents in which one or more members of staff has been assaulted.

The following table shows the number of all recorded assault incidents in which a member of staff has been assaulted and/or injured in each of the last three years:

	Assault incidents
2007	3,243
2008	3,187
2009	2,830

The following table shows the number of findings of guilt against prisoners at internal disciplinary hearings (adjudications) for assaults on staff, and punishments of additional days awarded:

	2007	2008	2009
Assaults on staff	2,837	2,903	2,443
Additional days	600	460	393

The figures refer to all incidents recorded as assaults, these may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times sniffer dogs have been used to search for drugs in prisons in each of the last three years. [10262]

Mr Blunt: The data requested are not held centrally. To obtain such information would require a detailed survey of each prison establishment which would be at disproportionate cost.

The prisons National Security Framework requires that each prison has a local security strategy, within which is detailed the type and frequency of searches to be undertaken using drugs detection dogs in given circumstances. This varies from prison to prison according to the level and type of prisoner drug misuse in each prison. All prisons have access to search dog capability.

Prisons: Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many closed visits there were in prisons in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of those visits. [10261]

Mr Blunt: In 2008-09, the last year for which data are available, 1,543 visitors to prisons were made subject to a period of closed visits following a visiting ban, 374 visitors were made subject to a period of closed visits instead of a visiting ban, and 1,871 prisoners were made subject to a period of closed visits.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The figures are not subject to audit.

The cost of operating closed visits cannot be disaggregated from the overall operating costs of prison visits.

Secure Training Centres: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many referrals made to local authorities of section 47 of the Child Act 1989 concerning a child or children held in a secure training centre were made by *(a)* centre staff, *(b)* staff of the Youth Justice Board, *(c)* independent advocates, *(d)* Ofsted staff, *(e)* a child, *(f)* a child's relatives and *(g)* another person or organisation in the last five years; [10918]

(2) on how many occasions a referral under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 has been made to a local authority following a restraint incident in each of the last five years; and what steps were taken by *(a)* the local authority, *(b)* the relevant police force and *(c)* prosecuting authorities in consequence. [11141]

Mr Blunt: The available information is as follows. The table shows the number of referrals by secure training centres (STCs) in the past five years, using data provided by the STCs. These related to incidents: in custody; during the young person's earlier placements; or while the young person was in the community.

	Total
2006	102
2007	106
2008	93
2009	111
2010	82

In cases where YJB staff consider that a matter should be referred to the local authority, then, unless the matter concerns the director of the centre, it is processed through the centre's child protection arrangements. There have been no separate referrals by YJB staff to local authorities under section 47 in the last five years.

The Government do not collect data centrally on the sources of, or reasons for, referrals to children's social care, which is a local authority responsibility.

Shoplifting: Unpaid Fines

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the level of non-payment of fines for offences relating to theft from shops in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [9866]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS systems do not identify how many fines are paid for specific offences and therefore an assessment of the level of non-payment for fines imposed for theft from shops could be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of all fine accounts.

Her Majesty's Courts Service has in place a strategy to increase the success of compliance with court orders particularly with regard to financial penalties—the Criminal Compliance and Enforcement Services Blueprint. This was launched in July 2008 and is being implemented across HMCS. The blueprint sets out HMCS's strategic objective for enforcement which is for a cheaper, faster and more proportionate system that primarily focuses on 'first time' compliance while continuing to apply the principles of rigorous enforcement to the hard core of defaulters.

Unpaid Fines

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value was of uncollected fines levied as a result of convictions for criminal offences on the latest date for which figures are available. [10872]

Mr Djanogly: The amount outstanding for financial penalties at the end of June 2010 was £597,926,217.

The value of outstanding balance includes the amount owed for fines imposed in the magistrates and Crown courts plus compensation, victims surcharge, costs and the value of unpaid fixed penalty notices that are transferred to HMCS for enforcement as a fine. The outstanding balance has risen through the application of a strict policy that only allows fines to be written off in certain circumstances. The outstanding balance includes fines imposed a number of years ago during the period when fines could not be cancelled (2004-06) and fines which are being paid by instalments. Some of the balance outstanding could be as much as 10 years old.

There was a large increase in the amount outstanding in April 2010 due to one fine for £8.3 million being imposed against a company, of which only £2 million has been paid so far and they have been ordered to pay the remainder in instalments starting from December 2010.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much is owed to the Exchequer in outstanding fines imposed by courts; and what steps the Government plans to take to recuperate all such outstanding fines. [11056]

Mr Djanogly: The amount outstanding for financial penalties at the end of June 2010 was £597,926,217.

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Performance in relation to the collection of financial penalties is being closely monitored across all areas of HMCS and any area where performance is below target is being challenged by a central team who will assist the area in identifying areas for improvement and set targets for increased collection.

In the 2009-10 financial year HMCS collected £259,241,082 which was £12.5 million (5%) more cash against financial penalties than in the 2008-09 year.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Correspondence

Glenda Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average time has been for staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to reply to an email from an hon. Member. [10202]

Mr Charles Walker: At present, IPSA aims to respond to all e-mails and letters within five working days. Historical data regarding the timeframe for responding to queries received to date are not readily available. However, IPSA has recently introduced a new case management system which will improve the response time to e-mails, letters and telephone queries; and ensure accurate records of correspondence between Members and IPSA. Once this system is fully rolled out across IPSA, IPSA will provide Members with information on its performance against these and other service targets.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Environment Protection

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what priorities she has set for research and development expenditure on projects to increase agricultural production and protect the environment; and if she will make a statement. [7258]

Mr Paice: Research and development is crucial to help the farming industry raise production in harmony with the environment and contribute to the global challenge of food security.

DEFRA's agricultural research and development has over recent years focused on the development of sustainable farming systems, reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change, protecting against pests and diseases, and improving animal health and welfare.

The new Technology Strategy Board, DEFRA and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council innovation platform for sustainable agriculture and food will invest up to £90 million over the next five years in match-funding to industry for agricultural research.

Air Pollution

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to respond to the Fifth Report of the Environment Audit Committee, Session 2009-10, HC229, on Air Quality. [10885]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is preparing a response to this report in consultation with other Government Departments and expects to publish it in the autumn.

Bears: Conservation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make representations to international agencies on the enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in respect of the farming in Asia of species of bear for bile. [10339]

Richard Benyon: Unless domestic practices are stimulating international trade, the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) does not restrict such activities. Nevertheless, whereas CITES does not prohibit the domestic "farming" of captive-bred specimens of appendix I species—such as Asiatic black bears—it does regard them as being included in appendix II of the convention and thus requiring appropriate certification if the animals, or products from them, are to be subject to international trade. CITES certification focuses on the conservation impact of international trade and is meant to ensure that such trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

Should we be made aware that international trade was taking place, we would of course pass that information to appropriate authorities, including the CITES Secretariat, to verify whether it was being done in accordance with the relevant CITES controls and requirements.

In the UK we take a precautionary approach and ban all commercial trade in bear bile or gall bladders irrespective of their source.

British Waterways: Compensation

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether British Waterways plans to compensate *(a)* boat owners and *(b)* business owners affected by the temporary closure of a stretch of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. [11724]

Richard Benyon: British Waterways is not able to refund license or mooring fees. The terms and conditions of mooring agreements and boat licenses explain that historic canals may on occasion need to be closed due to circumstances beyond British Waterways' reasonable control. The planned closure of one section of the Leeds and Liverpool canal is due to the severe drought. British Waterways have been working with affected boat businesses to minimise the impact of the closure, including assistance with relocation to other unaffected areas.

Coastal Erosion

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of redesignating her departmental responsibility for coastal erosion as her departmental responsibility for coastal protection. [10870]

Richard Benyon: The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 provides for flood and coastal erosion risk management which will enable a wide range of approaches for dealing with these threats. Risk management includes, but is wider than, coastal protection. It will allow community-based adaptation approaches, such as the current coastal change pathfinder programme, where appropriate. Protection is not the only option or always affordable, sustainable or appropriate, especially where it increases the risk to others. Renaming our departmental responsibility for coastal erosion could narrow and limit our role in this area.

Common Agricultural Policy

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Common Agricultural Policy funding she expects farmers in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* Witham constituency to receive in the next five years. [10094]

Mr Paice: It is not possible to provide figures for the next five years, both because payments to farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy are made in response to applications from farmers and land managers and because the current CAP Budget comes to an end in 2013. As an indication, however, farmers in the UK received approximately £3.3 billion in the year ending 15 October 2009 for direct aids and rural development schemes under the CAP, which included £2.1 billion in England. The UK paying agencies do not record information on payments at county or constituency level. Further information can be found on DEFRA's website.

Dangerous Dogs

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on kennelling dogs whose classification under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 was subject to a court case in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* the London Borough of Ealing in the latest period for which figures are available. [10216]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* The cost to police forces across England, in London and in the London borough of Ealing of kennelling dogs whose classification under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 was subject to a court case cannot be provided because these figures are not held centrally.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [9255]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not hold this information and would incur disproportionate cost to obtain it.

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of payments made by her Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11382]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not distinguish between small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and all other suppliers in its payment processes.

From information held centrally for the core Department the following table shows performance over the period April to June 2010.

		Percentage
Core DEFRA	*10 day performance*	*Normal supplier terms performance*
April	92.2	99.8
May	85.1	98.4
June	91.0	99.2

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7353]

Richard Benyon: Information for years prior to 2001-02 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Spend against DEFRA's Capital Investment programme, on new and refurbishment projects has been identified as (rounded to the nearest £1 million):

	£ million
2001-02	5
2002-03	9
2003-04	13
2004-05	24
2005-06	22
2006-07	18
2007-08	26
2008-09	16
2009-10	7

During this period the following projects were undertaken and completed for Core DEFRA, RPA, Animal Health and MMO but is excluding projects for VLA, VMD, CSL and CEFAS and any property disposal income.

London, 3-8 Whitehall Place
London, Nobel House
London, 55 Whitehall
London, Ergon House
London, 9 Millbank
Workington, BCMS Offices
London, Eastbury House
Reading, Northgate House
Reading, Coley Park
Lincoln, Ceres House
Preston, Barton Hall
Winchester, Itchin Abbas
Caernarfon, North Penralt
Leicester, Saffron House
Stafford, Beacon House
Shrewsbury, Sitka House
Longhanborough, Unit 11
Newcastle, The Waterfront
Reading, Northgate House
Stafford, RAF Stafford
Worcester, Whittington Road
London, Ashdown House
York, Foss House
York, Mallard House
Alnwick, Lion House
Norwich, Dragonfly House
Newcastle, Lancaster House
Carlisle, Edenbridge House
Carlisle, Hadrian House
Newcastle, The Quadrant
Truro, Polwhele
Exeter, Clyst House
Reigate, Liberty House
Gloucester, Saw Mills
Bakewell, Endcliffe
Manchester Airport, Building 308
Heathersett, Station Court
Carmarthen, Ty Merlin

Departmental Catering

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4855]

Richard Benyon: The Department was formed in 2001.

The catering contract was awarded and commenced in April 2005 serving London and the Guildford sites. At the DEFRA site in York the contract was awarded in April 2008. The costs shown in the following table refer to the actual cost of catering subsidy (the contribution made towards the staff restaurants which is a contractual obligation):

						£
April to March each year	*Guildford*	*Whitehall*	*Page street*	*Nobel house*	*DEFRA total*	*York*
2005-06	34,844	19,420	66,521	51,655	172,440	—
2006-07	34,844	19,420	66,521	51,655	172,440	—
2007-08	28,598	3,616	56,736	103,644	192,594	—
2008-09	Site closed	DECC	Site closed	130,714	130,714	14,852
2009-10	Site closed	DECC	Site closed	104,367	104,367	47,637

Costs incurred prior to 2001 are available only at disproportionate cost.

Other catering costs, for example vending machines, are available only at disproportionate cost.

The cost of hospitality for meetings (beverages and lunch) incurred by DEFRA London and Guildford sites is shown as follows:

Catering hospitality spend

March to April each year	*Spend (£)*
2004-05	43,012
2005-06	488,460
2006-07	579,749
2007-08	452,166
2008-09	466,326
2009-10	552,802
Total	2,585,515

Costs incurred prior to 2001 are available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value is of her Department's contracts with its suppliers which *(a)* are under review and *(b)* have been cancelled under her Department's plans to achieve cost savings. [11409]

Richard Benyon: Work on assessing our current contracts and identifying the scope for renegotiation or cancellation is under way following the announcements in the Budget. It is too early to say what will be the outcome in terms of number of contracts affected and likely savings involved in the activity.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7334]

Richard Benyon: In response to the amount spent on information and communication technology since 1997, the Department was not formed until 2001 and data between then and April 2006 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Data for all agencies and NDPBs since 2006 not shown could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The amount coded to information and communication technology for Core DEFRA and its agencies and NDPBs available is shown in the following table:

	£
2006-07	
Core DEFRA	8,554,241.96
Animal health	20,760.73
MMO (formally MFA)	205,190.93
Rural Payments Agency[1]	35,303.00
Governments Decontamination Service /Merged with FERA	3,049.73
VMD	228,000.00
2007-08	
Core DEFRA	8,598,453.00
Animal health	214,929.81
MMO (formally MFA)	4,127.93
Rural Payments Agency[1]	45,814.00
Natural England[2]	43,946,000.00
VMD	221,000.00
2008-09	
Core DEFRA	6,547,640.82
Animal health	107,979.13
MMO (formally MFA)	53,425.22
Rural Payments Agency[1]	43,876.00
Natural England[3]	37,986,000.00
VMD	276,000.00
2009-10	
Core DEFRA	5,643,124.80
Animal health	111,149.58
MMO (formally MFA)	169,531.87
Rural Payments Agency[1]	Not yet published
Sustainable Development Commission	22,532.59
Natural England[4]	39,673,000.00
VMD	284,000.00

[1] RPA Information Technology Costs—as published in Note 2 of the Annual Report and Accounts
[2] 2007-08 including recharges from DEFRA for the Genesis IT system of £28,726,000
[3] 2008-09 including recharges from DEFRA for the Genesis IT system of £22,375,000
[4] 2009-10 including recharges from DEFRA for the Genesis IT system of £22,048,000

Notes:

1. Figures shown in italics are restated in the subsequent year for consistency
2. The 2009-10 accounts are not yet available as they have not been published
3. These charges exclude depreciation, amortisation and cost of capital

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7975]

Richard Benyon: The figures quoted are the invoiced figures from 12 May up to and including 12 July and are exclusive of VAT.

The costs for DEFRA are £27,282.15.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7441]

Richard Benyon: In response to the amount spent on "hospitality" since 1997, the Department was not formed until 2001 and data between then and April 2007 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The amount spent on hospitality each year since April 2007 for core DEFRA, its agencies and NDPBs that it holds data for is shown in the following table. Spend for those agencies and NDPBs since 2007 that is not shown could be given only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2006-07	
Core DEFRA	377,379.69
Animal Health	4,249.52
MMO	3,507.68
Governments Decontamination Service/merged with FERA	312.27
VMD	Nil
2007-08	
Core DEFRA	332,549.31
Animal Health	85.00
MMO	4,854.80
Rural Payments Agency	95,021.01
Governments Decontamination Service/merged with FERA	517.94
Natural England	274,070.00
VMD	140.00
2008-09	
Core DEFRA	81,994.85
Animal Health	—
MMO	7,739.81
Rural Payments Agency	93,518.21
Governments Decontamination Service/merged with FERA	1,318.94
Natural England	266,714.00
VMD	525.00
2009-10	
Core DEFRA	405,841.19
Animal Health	13,259.20
MMO	11,528.36
Rural Payments Agency	49,734.98
Natural England	65,700.00
Sustainable Development Commission	4,054.56
VMD	86.00

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in her Department in 2009-10. [9897]

Richard Benyon: The following table summarises the total spent, by core DEFRA and its Executive Agencies, in 2009-10 for remuneration to civil servants. Figures are taken from the Resource Accounts of each organisation.

Organisation	*Spend (£ million)*
Core DEFRA	120.95
Animal Health	58.48
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	6.83
Rural Payments Agency	95.8
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	42.57
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	20.56
Food and Environment Research Agency	30.56

Departmental Secondment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to increase the number of officials seconded from her Department to the EU institutions. [9282]

Mr Paice: My Department regularly identifies and evaluates opportunities that arise for secondments to the EU institutions. A budget is available to fund a number of opportunities in priority areas. These are advertised internally, and staff are encouraged to apply in order both to provide UK expertise to these bodies and to develop their own knowledge and skills for the benefit of the Department on their return from these time-limited posts. The establishment of the new European Fast Stream will assist in developing more candidates able to apply successfully both for such secondments, and for permanent posts within the institutions.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7460]

Richard Benyon: In response to the amount spent on "stationery" since 1997, the Department was not formed until 2001 and data between then and April 2006 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For information on agencies and NDPBs not shown, the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The amount spent on stationery each year since April 2006 for core DEFRA its agencies and NDPBs that it holds data for is shown in the following table:

	£
2006-07	
Core DEFRA	1,200,136.86
Animal Health	155,657.11
MMO (formerly MFA)	21,478.76
Government Decontamination Service/merged with FERA	7,232.88
VMD	28,057.00
2007-08	
Core DEFRA	409,527.44
Animal Health	227,166.61
MMO (formerly MFA)	23,768.94
Government Decontamination Service/merged with FERA	5,547.27

	£
Natural England	277,309.00
VMD	19,517.00
2008-09	
Core DEFRA	401,394.97
Animal Health	232,394.54
MMO (formerly MFA)	55,695.98
Government Decontamination Service/merged with FERA	3,593.89
Natural England	250,575.00
VMD	18,147.00
2009-10	
Core DEFRA	318,820.50
Animal Health	230,184.68
MMO (formerly MFA)	43,174.05
Sustainable Development Commission.	7,568.69
Natural England	256,075.00
VMD	20,331.00

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee away days in each year since 1997. [7315]

Richard Benyon: This information is not held centrally and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All public expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety. Subject to those principles business areas have discretion whether or not to hold away days having regard to the evaluation of alternative options and, value for money considerations.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on travel for its employees in each year since 1997. [7422]

Richard Benyon: In response to the amount spent on "travel" since 1997, the Department was not formed until 2001 and data between then and April 2007 and for the other agencies and NDPB's spending outside of the CWT Contract could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Spend for those agencies and NDPBs since 2007 not shown could be given only at disproportionate cost.

The amount spent on rail and air travel each year since April 2007 and split where data are available for Core DEFRA, its agencies and NDPBs is shown in the following table:

	Organisation	*Travel type*	*Total (£)*
2007-08	Animal health	Air	16,363.06
		Rail	36,946.40
	Core DEFRA	Air	1,473,240.53
		Rail	1,774,538.72
	Governments Decontamination Service /Merged with FERA	Air	36,570.37
		Rail	35,925.23
	Natural England	All	4,092,813.00
	MMO (Formally MFA)	Air	23,135.54
		Rail	20,079.71
	Rural Payment Agency	Air	334,166.82
		Rail	739,542.70
	VMD	All	102,217.00
2008-09	Animal Health	Air	17,132.83
		Rail	46,731.77
	Core DEFRA	Air	1,390,903.23
		Rail	1,582,723.78
	Governments Decontamination Service /Merged with FERA	Air	58,530.01
		Rail	30,235.72
	Natural England	All	4,099,990.00
	MMO (formally MFA)	Air	13,379.46
		Rail	19,718.21
	Rural Payment Agency	Air	358,121.16
		Rail	1,009,982.32
	VMD	All	115,635.00
2009-10	Animal Health	Air	39,293.16
		Rail	111,432.04
	Core DEFRA	Air	2,504,318.00
		Rail	2,637,252.64
	Governments Decontamination Service /Merged with FERA	Rail	1,196.20
	Natural England	All	3,238,768.00
	MMO (formally MFA)	Air	11,269.10
		Rail	133,732.04
	Rural Payment Agency	Air	164,872.00

	Organisation	Travel type	Total (£)
—		Rail	834,243.00
	VMD	All	130,927.00

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7976]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 455W, and 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 15W.

In addition, the Government publish on a quarterly basis, the expenses incurred by the most senior officials which include use of the Government car service and other travel expenses.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7585]

Richard Benyon: The following amounts were spent on electricity, heating (gas, oil and Whitehall district heating system) since 2002-03 and on water since 2004-05. Information is not held prior to those dates. In addition, availability of historic telephone services expenditure varies from body to body according to their archiving strategy. Those data are therefore incomplete. These data cover the core Department, its executive agencies, and its two largest NDPBs, the Environment Agency and Natural England; information for all NDPBs could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

2008-09

£

	Energy costs					
	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*Total*	*Water cost*
AH	278,862	106,372	2,115	0	387,349	61,966
CEFAS	485,093	137,138	0	0	622,231	165,583
DEFRA	875,180	294,258	0	8,628	1,178,066	37,673
FERA	1,626,133	706,539	0	0	2,332,672	76,143
MFA	20,867	5,687	3,200	0	29,754	1,504
NE	247,335	84,797	0	0	332,132	45,867
RPA	775,125	157,645	17,982	0	950,752	70,786
VLA	1,891,799	2,217,256	188,525	0	4,297,580	157,340
EA	6,217,000	474,000	219,000	0	6,910,000	261,000
Total	12,417,394	4,183,692	430,822	8,628	17,040,536	877,862

2007-08

£

	Energy costs					
	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*Total*	*Water cost*
AH	192,356	59,655	9,853	0	261,864	58,152
CEFAS	379,799	90,529	0	0	470,328	165,069
DEFRA	777,931	139,277	16,006	18,615	951,829	99,312
FERA	1,198,146	460,979	291	0	1,659,416	81,782
MFA	15,379	3,986	2,034	0	21,399	2,820
NE	141,367	57,219	0	0	198,586	30,339
RPA	537,396	113,370	18,277	0	669,043	72,001
VLA	1,352,291	900,142	154,500	0	2,406,933	117,190
EA	4,881,000	371,000	193,000	0	5,445,000	204,000
Total	9,475,665	2,196,157	393,961	18,615	12,084,398	790,665

2006-07

£

	Energy costs					
	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*Total*	*Water cost*
SVS	232,450	81,504	8,245	0	322,199	54,146
CEFAS	479,818	129,615	0	0	609,433	120,161
DEFRA	1,195,043	331,850	43,173	0	1,570,066	60,981
FERA	1,703,661	683,929	550	0	2,388,140	71,856
MFA	17,765	6,630	1,714	0	26,109	3,965
NE	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	9,670
RPA	771,553	150,898	10,370	0	932,821	72,365

2006-07

£

	Energy costs					
	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*Total*	*Water cost*
VLA	1,361,182	1,309,391	16,181	0	2,686,754	116,831
EA	5,888,000	463,000	163,000	0	6,514,000	207,000
Total	11,649,472	3,156,817	243,233	0	15,049,522	716,975

[1] Included in DEFRA total.

2005-06

£

	Energy costs					
	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*Total*	*Water cost*
SVS	244,208	99,160	13,073	0	356,441	38,187
CEFAS	375,712	102,528	0	0	478,240	149,252
DEFRA	892,036	257,315	52,115	26,930	1,228,396	62,948
FERA	878,800	384,277	1,020	0	1,264,097	81,028
MFA	13,277	3,073	2,321	0	18,671	1,553
NE	308,620	106,930	0	0	415,550	40,740
RPA	594,520	132,630	16,445	0	743,595	83,355
VLA	853,598	930,284	16,395	0	1,800,277	106,569
EA	3,973,000	353,000	136,000	0	4,462,000	242,000
Total	8,133,771	2,369,197	237,369	26,930	10,767,267	563,634

2004-05

£

	Energy costs					
	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*Total*	*Water cost*
SVS	212,738	77,715	11,626	0	302,079	33,899
CEFAS	267,164	73,579	0	0	340,743	107,314
DEFRA	626,563	134,261	24,945	105,771	891,540	44,617
FERA	597,198	327,604	482	0	925,284	61,220
MFA	11,972	1,622	1,431	0	15,025	1,058
NE	244,122	85,731	0	0	329,853	27,306
RPA	431,676	101,596	4,313	0	537,585	60,275
VLA	388,395	657,494	19,288	0	1,065,177	38,784
EA	4,707,000	486,000	296,000	0	5,489,000	221,000
Total	2,779,828	1,459,602	62,085	105,771	9,896,286	595,381

Energy costs 2003-04

£

	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*Total*
CEFAS	227,352	59,952	0	0	287,304
DEFRA	978,977	301,090	53,100	126,647	1,459,814
FERA	441,497	329,803	716	0	772,016
RPA	309,387	95,806	6,897	0	412,090
VLA	404,333	636,761	11,376	0	1,052,470
EA	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,361,546	1,423,412	72,089	126,647	3,983,694

Energy costs 2002-03

£

	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*Total*
CEFAS	222,188	71,597	0	0	293,785
DEFRA	920,830	247,775	59,574	134,165	1,362,344
FERA	707,190	276,445	0	0	983,635
RPA	323,066	94,902	8,782	0	426,750
VLA	409,803	646,925	31,315	0	1,088,043
EA	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,583,077	1,337,644	99,671	134,165	4,154,557

Telephony costs

£

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
SVS	—	—	—	—	299,211	358,470	412,640	366,162
CEFAS	119,221	152,985	95,862	80,943	95,677	90,544	90,389	67,512

Telephony costs

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	£ 2009
DEFRA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
FERA	82,531	76,262	66,737	72,243	68,275	65,558	51,726	55,142
MFA	—	—	—	17,325	19,453	16,028	16,364	19,454
NE	—	—	—	—	787,690	519,536	63,482	44,686
RPA	—	—	—	—	1,768,753	878,719	1,670,471	1,345,723
VLA	106,419	131,082	102,323	90,941	77,414	65,192	19,390	69,312
EA	—	—	—	1,290,000	1,216,000	1,817,000	1,587,000	1,241,000
Total	308,171	329,920	293,681	1,511,452	4,332,473	3,811,047	3,911,271	3,208,991

Telephony costs

	1997	1998	1999	2000	£ 2001
SVS	—	—	—	—	—
CEFAS	—	236,955	129,471	179,128	99,033
DEFRA	—	—	—	—	—
FERA	—	—	—	—	—
MFA	—	—	—	—	—
NE	—	—	—	—	—
RPA	—	—	—	—	—
VLA	—	—	40,474	86,190	99,889
EA	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	236,955	169,945	265,318	198,992

Key to organisations

AH	Animal Health
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
FERA	Food and Environment Research Agency
MFA	Marine and Fisheries Agency
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NE	Natural England
RPA	Rural Payments Agency
SVS	State Veterinary Service
VLA	Veterinary Laboratories Agency
WDHS	Whitehall District Heating System

Notes:

1. The State Veterinary Service was formed on 1 April 2005; the organisation changed its name to Animal Health in April 2007.

2. MFA was formed 1 October 2005, the data in 2005-06 is for the whole year, we are unable to split the data before and after the agency was formed. The MFA was replaced by the MMO (an NDPB) on 1 April 2010.

Fisheries: EU Grants

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what EU grants are available for private storage of fisheries products; and if she will make a statement. [11212]

Richard Benyon: Under Council Regulation 104/2000 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and agriculture products, private storage aid may be granted to producer organisations for certain frozen fish products. The regulation will be reformed along with the common fisheries policy.

Fishing Limits

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will withdraw her Department's restriction on fishing for sole and skate in respect of *(a)* Suffolk Coastal constituency and *(b)* England; and if she will make a statement. [10874]

Richard Benyon: Officials from the Marine Management Organisation are working very hard to secure additional North sea sole quota for the under 10 metre fleet. I have also asked representatives from across industry to consider possible options for immediate-term relief. If these prove successful, I hope that a limited reopening of the fishery may be possible in the near future. At this stage, I foresee little prospect of being able to reopen the skate fishery, where uptake has been consistent with previous years, and closure of the fishery occurred later than in 2009. I am committed to delivering the long-term reform of the inshore fleet that is clearly necessary to prevent a recurrence of the difficulties that it currently faces and to ensure its future sustainability. It is my intention that a public consultation on proposals for such reform will be launched in the latter part of this year.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish guidance on national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategies in England pursuant to the Floods and Water Management Act 2010. [10850]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency will be responsible for developing the national strategy and guidance for England.

We expect the Agency to consult on the strategy and key guidance this autumn. This will give an opportunity for the public and parliamentary colleagues, including the EFRA committee, to provide comments and suggestions before a draft is submitted to Ministers for review.

The national strategy and guidance will also need to be laid before Parliament prior to being issued.

Food: Procurement

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to promote the procurement of food produced with the lowest possible greenhouse gas emissions in the public sector. [5341]

Mr Paice: We are in the process of considering criteria for Government Buying Standards (GBS) to ensure the public sector procures sustainable food and catering services. GBS are mandatory for central Government

Departments and their Executive agencies and the standards will be promoted to the wider public sector.

DEFRA supported the development of PAS2050, a publicly available standard for calculating greenhouse gas footprints, which suppliers can use to report the footprint of their products. DEFRA-funded research demonstrated its applicability for food products.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, to question 4421, on procurement of food, which public sector bodies have improved the quality and sustainability of the food they serve whilst maintaining or reducing the overall cost. [6884]

Mr Paice: In October 2008 DEFRA commissioned accounting and consultancy firm Deloitte to carry out an independent evaluation of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI).

Deloitte's evaluation of the PSFPI was published by DEFRA in March 2009, and includes examples of public sector bodies which have improved the quality and sustainability of food procurement while reducing the overall cost. For example, the North East Public Sector Food Programme made cashable savings of over £165,000, Bradford City delivered 'better quality school meals at no extra cost' and Shropshire School Meals Service improved the quality of school fruit and vegetables while making an overall saving of 11%.

Incinerators: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will meet residents of Shrewsbury constituency to discuss the prospect of the construction of a waste incinerator in Shrewsbury. [9338]

Richard Benyon: Local authorities, rather than the Government, are responsible for deciding how waste is managed in their respective areas. Choice of technology must reflect local circumstances, which will vary. It is important that any plans for waste to energy facilities emerge out of local waste strategies, so that all options for reuse, recycling and composting can be explored first.

Inshore Fisheries

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the transitional funding for the creation of inshore fisheries and conservation authorities from former Sea Fisheries Committees. [10908]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is launching the transitional funding scheme on Monday 26 July 2010. This scheme is designed to assist existing Sea Fisheries Committees in preparing for the additional duties and functions they will have to perform when they vest as Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Packaging: Waste Management

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the remit of her review of waste management policy extends to consideration of the merits of a levy on waste packaging which does not break down quickly. [10919]

Richard Benyon: The terms of reference for the review of waste policies will be published shortly. The review will consider all aspects of waste policy and delivery in England.

Primates: Ownership

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward proposals for the further regulation of the ownership of primates. [10861]

Mr Paice: The welfare of primates is already governed by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. A code of practice for the welfare of privately kept non-human primates, made under the Act, came into force on 6 April this year. We have no plans to introduce any further measures regarding the ownership of primates.

Reservoirs: Abingdon

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the land proposed at the new reservoir site south of Abingdon by Thames Water is in each category of agricultural land classification. [11496]

Richard Benyon: Thames Water has produced a map giving this information for the current public inquiry into its draft water resources management plan. A copy of the map has been placed in the House Library.

Rivers: North-East

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much has been spent on clearing debris from the River *(a)* Tees, *(b)* the Tyne and *(c)* the Wear in each of the last five years; [10421]

(2) what responsibility the Environment Agency has for the clearance of debris from the River Tees; which other *(a)* parts of her Department and *(b)* bodies sponsored by her Department have responsibility for debris clearance from rivers; and if she will make a statement. [11113]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the total cost to the Environment Agency for debris removal within the river catchments of the Tyne, Wear and Tees. This includes the cost of this activity on the main river and its major tributaries.

The costs indicated are associated with routine maintenance activities and do not include emergency response costs, such as emergency debris removal from trash screens and culverts.

Under the Water Resources Act 1991, the Environment Agency has the power, in connection with main rivers, to cleanse, repair or otherwise maintain any existing watercourse or drainage work.

The Environment Agency exercises this permissive power where it deems it necessary to remove debris from a main river for the purpose of alleviating the risk of flooding. The River Tees is classified as a main river and therefore falls within the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency.

DEFRA sponsors British Waterways, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority, the three main navigation bodies which manage two-thirds of navigable inland waterways in England and Wales. These bodies maintain the waterways and are responsible for keeping them clear for navigation purposes.

River catchment summary for debris removal

£

River catchment	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*5 year total*
Tyne	29,931.10	30,233.43	30,538.82	31,321.87	31,961.09	153,986.30
Tees	29,804.86	30,105.92	30,410.02	31,189.76	31,826.29	153,336.85
Wear	36,691.85	37,062.48	37,436.84	38,396.76	39,180.37	188,768.30
Total	96,427.81	97,401.82	98,385.68	100,908.39	102,967.75	496,091.45

Task Force on Farming Regulations

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the Task Force on Farming Regulations to publish its terms of reference; and if she will make a statement. [7292]

Mr Paice: The terms of reference for the Task Force on Farming Regulation were published on 9 July and can be found at:

http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/files/2010/07/090709-farmreview-tor.pdf

Thames Water: Water Supply

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much water was lost through leakage within the Thames Water supply area in the latest period for which figures are available. [11507]

Richard Benyon: Total leakage reported from the Thames Water supply area for the period 2008-09 was 700 million litres per day. This represents a rate of 195.3 litres per property per day, or 22.2 cubic metres per kilometre of mains pipe per day.

Waste Management

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reason is for the time taken to publish the terms of reference for her Department's waste review. [10469]

Richard Benyon: The waste policy review is a cross-departmental review, and the terms are subject to discussions between Government Departments. We anticipate that the terms will be published very shortly.

Waste: Renewable Energy

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on amending the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 to recognise the concept of end of waste fuel. [9370]

Richard Benyon: Consultation will begin shortly on amendments to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. These amendments would remove the distinction between fuels which, although manufactured from waste, are deemed by the competent authority (the Environment Agency) to have ceased to be waste before combustion, and "virgin" fuels not derived from waste.

Wildlife: Crime

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the potential contribution of the proposed border police force to the *(a)* enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference agreements on trade in wildlife and *(b)* reducing smuggling and illegal trade in wildlife. [10887]

Richard Benyon: Home Office Ministers, who lead on this, are developing a model in consultation with other departments, including DEFRA, which will deliver the coalition agreement commitment.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission holds information on the number of local authorities which hold Plain English Campaign awards for their electoral registration forms. [10779]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not hold this information. The format of the annual canvass form for electoral registration is currently prescribed in legislation.

However, the Commission does provide guidance to electoral registration officers that plain English should be used when designing those forms not prescribed in legislation, including rolling registration forms.

The Commission further informs me that it sets performance standards for electoral registration officers in Great Britain. These include a standard about accessibility and communication of information which aims to ensure that electoral registration officers effectively communicate electoral registration information to all electors.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the merits of informing hon. Members of the under-performance of electoral administration officers in local authorities in their constituencies. [10781]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it believes it is very important for hon. Members to be informed about the performance of electoral administration officers. When each annual assessment of performance for electoral registration officers and returning officers is published, the Commission writes to hon. Members directing them to information on its website where they can review the individual performance of every authority in Great Britain.

The first set of published electoral registration officer performance data was placed in the House of Commons Library in May 2009, and since then all sets of data have been published on the Commission's website alongside information about the performance of electoral registration officers and returning officers.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission provides to electoral registration officers on carrying out their duties. [10821]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it issues guidance to Electoral Registration Officers on their statutory duties, which is available to download from its website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

The commission further informs me that it publishes performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain and works with those who have fallen below the standards to improve their performance. The commission also provides a range of resources for Electoral Registration Officers to assist them in planning and conducting voter registration activities.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what eligibility criteria apply to those seeking employment as electoral registration staff; and what mechanisms are in place for the training of such staff. [10852]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that the appointment of electoral registration officers in Great Britain is the responsibility of local authorities. In Northern Ireland the Chief Electoral Officer is the electoral registration officer for each constituency, and is responsible for appointing staff to assist him in his statutory duties. There are no eligibility criteria set out in law.

The Commission further informs me that it has issued guidance to electoral registration officers that all staff involved in registration should be fully trained in the relevant aspects of the registration process. The Commission also publishes performance standards for electoral registration officers in Great Britain, including a performance standard on training which aims to ensure that they have provided appropriate training for staff to deliver the rolling registration and annual canvass processes.

Electorate: Ethnic Groups

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent estimate the Electoral Commission has made of the proportion of UK citizens from *(a)* white, *(b)* Bangladeshi, *(c)* Pakistani, *(d)* African and *(e)* Afro Caribbean ethnic backgrounds who are eligible to vote. [10780]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that with a small number of exceptions, such as those serving a sentence in prison or convicted of an electoral offence, all UK citizens over the age of 18 living in the UK are eligible to vote.

The Commission further informs me that the most recent national estimates for registration levels across England and Wales were published in its 2005 report, 'Understanding Electoral Registration', which was based on data from 2000. The report included the following estimates of non-registration.

Group	*Percentage non-registered*
White	6
Bangladeshi	[1]6
Pakistani	8
Black African	37
Black Caribbean	9

[1] Small base size.

Members: Correspondence

Ian Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if the Chair of the Electoral Commission will publish in unredacted form a copy of her letter of 26 May 2010 to the Secretary of State for Wales. [10805]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has placed a copy of the letter in the House of Commons Library.

National Assembly for Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if the Electoral Commission will publish its advice to the Wales Office on the form of the question to be put on the extension of powers of the National Assembly for Wales. [10804]

Mr Streeter: The commission informs me that it will make public its views in response to the consultation by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State for Wales is also required to lay before Parliament a report stating any views that Electoral Commission has expressed on the intelligibility of the referendum question. A copy of the report must also be sent to the First Minister for laying before the National Assembly for Wales.

National Assembly for Wales: Referendums

Ian Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, when the Electoral Commission will begin its consultation on the content of the question for the referendum extending the powers of the National Assembly for Wales; and for how long this consultation is expected to last. [10802]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it was consulted by the Secretary of State for Wales on the wording of the proposed referendum question on 24 June 2010.

The Commission began its assessment of the question on 24 June, when it wrote to interested groups to invite their views on the question.

The Commission's assessment process will take around 10 weeks to complete.

Ian Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, whom the Electoral Commission plans to consult on the content of the question to be put in the referendum relating to the extension of powers of the National Assembly for Wales. [10803]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it wrote on 24 June to interested groups—including political parties in Wales and potential campaigners—to invite their views on the proposed referendum question.

The Commission is also carrying out research with the public in Wales, and seeking advice on the wording of the proposed question from experts on accessibility and plain language.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the level of air passenger duty in respect of journeys to *(a)* the Caribbean and *(b)* the US. [10364]

Justine Greening: The existing air passenger duty rates, and scheduled 1 November 2010 increases, were set and legislated for by the previous Government.

The Budget announced that the Government will explore changes to the aviation tax system, including switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty, which could encourage fuller planes. Major changes will be subject to consultation.

Banks: Taxation

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on *(a)* banks and *(b)* the banking sector of the measures proposed in the June 2010 Budget in respect of (i) the banking levy, (ii) changes to corporation tax, (iii) the rise in the rate of value added tax and (iv) other relevant measures. [7682]

Mr Gauke: The cost to the Exchequer from the reduction in the main rate of corporation tax for financial sector companies is £0.1 billion in 2011-12, £0.2 billion in 2012-13, £0.3 billion in 2013-14 and £0.4 billion in 2014-15. There is a negligible impact in 2010-11. The financial sector covers companies classified as 'Banking and Finance', 'Insurance and Pension funds' and 'Auxiliary Financial Services'.

The yield from the bank levy is estimated to be £1.15 billion in 2011-12, £2.32 billion in 2012-13, £2.5 billion in 2013-14 and £2.4 billion in 2014-15.

A robust estimate of the impact of the rise in the standard rate of VAT on the financial services sector is not available. Such estimates are subject to wide margins of error in terms of behavioural responses.

The key assumptions applied in all major policy costings announced in Budget 2010 are set out in the following document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Child Benefit: Armed Forces

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the families of service personnel who are in receipt of child benefit of the measures in the June 2010 Budget. [9646]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The families of service personnel will receive child benefit if they meet the relevant conditions. As announced at Budget, the Government will freeze child benefit for three years to help fund significant above indexation increases in the child tax credit. The child tax credit will increase by £150 above indexation in 2011-12 and by £60 above indexation in 2012-13. As a result of this, the Budget will have no measurable negative impact on child poverty over the next two years.

Child Tax Credit

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families resident in Dundee East constituency will be affected by changes to the child tax credit due to come into effect in April 2011; and what estimate he has made of the likely average change in the level of child tax credit. [10533]

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families resident in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency will be affected by changes to child tax credit due to come into effect in April 2011; and what estimate he has made of the likely average change in the level of child tax credit. [10523]

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families resident in Moray constituency will be affected by changes to child tax credit due to come into effect in April 2011; and what estimate he has made of the likely average change in the level of child tax credit. [10543]

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families resident in Angus constituency will be affected by changes to child tax credits due to come into effect in April 2011; and what estimate he has made of the likely average change in the level of child tax credit. [10526]

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families resident in Perth and North Perthshire constituency will be affected by changes to child tax credit due to come into effect in April 2011; and what estimate he has made of the likely average change in the level of child tax credit. [10535]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 461W.

Information on the average change in child tax credit within each constituency is available only at disproportionate cost.

Child Trust Fund and Saving Gateway

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a race equality impact assessment has been carried out on *(a)* the discontinuation of the Child Trust Fund and *(b)* the decision not to extend the Savings Gateway. [10403]

Mr Hoban: The Government announced on 24 May that they will reduce and then stop Government payments to Child Trust Funds. The Government also announced at the Budget that the Saving Gateway will not be introduced. Both measures will help to reduce the budget deficit.

Assessments of the race and other impacts of both measures will be published once primary legislation is brought forward to implement them.

Consumer Price Index

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Bank of England on proposals to include housing costs in the Consumer Price Index measure of inflation. [11488]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor meets the Governor of the Bank of England regularly to discuss a range of policy and operational issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Departmental Accountancy

Derek Twigg: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 14 July 2010, Official Report, column 715W, on departmental accountancy, what the monetary value was of each of the projects listed. [10968]

Justine Greening: The information requested is not held centrally and could not be provided within the disproportionate cost threshold.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7617]

Justine Greening: The information requested is as follows:

HM Treasury

A full PFI refurbishment of the Treasury's building was completed in 2002. The cost of any light bulbs since that date have been included in the annual unitary payment made to the PFI provider and is not separately recorded. As a result of the introduction of a new accounting system in 2002-03, provision of information prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Debt Management Office and the Asset Protection Agency

Spending on light bulbs is not separately identifiable within their accounting systems and cannot be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee has not incurred any spending on light bulbs.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of officials in the Office for Budget Responsibility were previously employed by his Department. [6668]

Justine Greening: The interim Office for Budget Responsibility has an eight-person secretariat of economists and public finance experts. The members of the secretariat are HM Treasury employees, redeployed from within the Department.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7473]

Justine Greening: Neither the Treasury nor its agencies or non-departmental public body have any record of spending on logos since 2002-03. Information prior to that date is not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system at that time.

EC Budget

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last reviewed the mechanisms for provision by the Government of matched funding for EU funding committed to programmes in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [8186]

Justine Greening: The emergency Budget set the overall path for the public finances to 2015-16. Departmental allocations will be set at the Spending Review, after which we will be in a position to make spending decisions including for match funding for EU Structural Funds. The Spending Review will be published on 20 October and will cover the four-year period from April 2011 to March 2015.

Employment Tribunals Service: Legal Costs

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely costs to departments in the next 12 months of defending cases in employment tribunals arising from the discussions of terms and conditions of contracts of employment through procedures other than those recognised for that purpose by management and trades unions. [9474]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally. The funding and management of Employment Tribunal claims is a matter for individual Departments.

EU Budget

Mr Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the draft EU budget for 2011; and if he will make a statement. [10740]

Justine Greening: The Government are very concerned by the proposed increase of 5.8%, or €7 billion, in payment appropriations in the European Commission's draft EU budget for 2011. This level of increase is seriously out of step with the tough decisions being taken on fiscal consolidation by EU member state governments. The Government have repeatedly called for the EU budget in 2011 to be kept at cash levels equivalent to 2010, and will continue to work hard towards this goal.

Fraud: Alcoholic Drinks

Angela Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to co-ordinate Government policy on the level of alcohol fraud and its relationship to the overall level of serious organised crime. [10836]

Justine Greening: HMRC published latest estimates of the level of spirits fraud in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2009" which is available in the House of Commons Library and is available at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm.

Policy on tackling serious organised crime is coordinated across law enforcement agencies through the Organised Crime Partnership Board, which considers individual threats such as alcohol duty fraud in relation to the overall level of criminality.

Government Departments: MITIE

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Government departments hold contracts with Management Incentive Through Investment Equity (MITIE) Group plc; what the annual cost has been of each Government contract with MITIE Group plc in each year since 1990; what the length of each contract was; and which Department held each contract. [11142]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

Data on MITIE's contracts with central Government for each year since 1990 are not available centrally. From 1 January 2011, the Government will publish details of all new contracts with their suppliers.

Mortgages: Income Support

Simon Hart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the proposed reduction in the level of income support mortgage interest on *(a)* the number of home repossessions and *(b)* the level of homelessness. [9948]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

We will continue to work closely with lenders and debt advice agencies to ensure repossession is only ever a last resort. The Council of Mortgage Lenders has told the Department that it expects lenders to continue to exercise forbearance where it is fair to do so for the borrower, and the borrower has a chance of paying off any arrears in the future. The Council of Mortgage Lenders thinks that where arrears levels increase for some borrowers as a result of the change in the standard interest rate this does not translate into an immediate possession risk.

The Department does not capture information on reasons for ending a benefit claim, including support for mortgage interest, so does not capture the number of claimants who no longer receive support for mortgage interest payments because their property has been repossessed.

The Department is in the process of developing a model to estimate the impact of changes to support for mortgage interest on the number of repossessions. However any estimates will always be limited since detailed case-by-case information, such as arrears at the start of a claim, is not collected by the Department.

The Department does not hold data to estimate of the level of homelessness as a result of this change.

Office for Budget Responsibility: Public Appointments

Mr Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that the Treasury Select Committee plays a role in the appointment of the new chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility. [10607]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor intends to provide in legislation for the Treasury Select Committee (TSC) to have the power of veto over the appointment of the Chair of the Office of Budget Responsibility. Before the legislation is passed, the Chancellor proposes that the TSC conduct a pre-appointment hearing of the proposed candidate and has committed to not appointing a candidate judged unsuitable by the TSC.

Pensions: Index Linking

Mary Creagh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on the level of tax revenue of adopting the consumer price index as the basis for indexation of pensions. [9231]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* No estimates are available on the tax revenue effects of adopting the consumer price index as a basis for indexation of pensions.

Public Expenditure

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 658W, on public expenditure: Wales, what savings are being sought from each of the other devolved Administrations. [10068]

Danny Alexander: The savings from the Scottish Executive amount to £372.0 million, and from the Northern Ireland Executive £141.1 million.

The devolved Administrations are able to defer their share of the £6.2 billion cuts to 2011-12 if they wish.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 541W, on public expenditure: Wales, if he will publish table 9.2 of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, July 2010 in a form including figures relating to end year flexibility and reserve claims for Wales and Northern Ireland. [10249]

Danny Alexander: The country and regional analysis tables in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses have been prepared consistent with plans as at Winter Supplementary Estimates, as explained in the PESA publication, and there are no plans to revise the figures until PESA 2011.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 658W, on public expenditure: Wales, for what reasons a Barnett consequential was initially applied to Wales before savings relating to the Olympics were confirmed. [10069]

Danny Alexander: At the time of the 26 May announcement, the savings in respect of the Olympics programme had not been confirmed. The Barnett formula was therefore initially applied to all the DCMS savings, rather than the DCMS savings excluding the Olympics savings, which was done once the Olympics savings were confirmed.

Public Sector: Wales

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission research to assess the effect on Wales of public sector job losses in the next five years. [9597]

Danny Alexander: Spending plans will be published in the autumn. In devolved areas of spending in Wales it will be for the Welsh Assembly Government to make their own decisions on how it will allocate its block budget.

Radio Frequencies

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made on *(a)* the revenue from the 800 MHz spectrum auctions and *(b)* the replacement cost for programme making and special events equipment that currently operates in the 800 MHz band. [7665]

Danny Alexander: It is not commercially sensible for the Government to make public their expectations of the outcome of a competitive auction process.

Representatives of programme making and special events users estimate that the cost of replacing equipment that is currently licensed for use in the 600MHz and 800MHz spectrum bands to be £73 million.

Regional Planning and Development: Tees Valley

James Wharton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to designate the Tees Valley as an accelerated development zone. [10342]

Danny Alexander: June's emergency Budget announced that the Government will publish a White Paper later in the summer setting out plans for a new approach to sub-national growth. Accelerated development zones will be considered alongside other proposals as part of this process. Treasury officials are working with representatives from local authorities within the Tees Valley area as they develop proposals to form a local enterprise partnership and consider suitable funding mechanisms to support economic growth. The Government cannot take decisions in relation to individual accelerated development zone project proposals until they have adopted a position on the wider policy proposal.

Saving Gateway

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what statistical research on the effectiveness of the Savings Gateway Scheme he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such item of evidence.; [10365]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Saving Gateway scheme in increasing the level of saving. [10473]

Mr Hoban: The Government announced at the Budget that, to help reduce the deficit, the Saving Gateway would not be introduced nationally.

The Saving Gateway has previously been piloted twice. Both pilots were independently evaluated, and reports of these evaluations have been published. Follow up research on the second pilot has also been carried out, and has also been published. These documents can all be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/saving_gateway.htm

Taxation: Bingo

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons gross profits tax on bingo clubs is set at 20 per cent. [10620]

Justine Greening: The rate of bingo duty was reduced from 22 per cent. to 20 per cent. at the March 2010 Budget.

All taxes, including gambling taxes, are kept under review.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons gross profits tax on high street bookmakers and UK licensed online bingo websites is set at 15 per cent. [10621]

Justine Greening: The existing rates of general betting duty and remote gaming duty were set by the previous Government. The June 2010 Budget left all rates unchanged.

All taxes, including gambling taxes, are kept under review.

Taxation: Bookmakers

Mr Lammy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue accruing to the Exchequer from tax on the bookmaking industry in each year since 2000. [10985]

Justine Greening: Companies in the bookmaking industry are liable to various tax regimes, mainly to betting duty, corporation tax and VAT. From these, only betting duty receipts relate directly to the betting industry. They are published and are available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett

The yearly receipts from the betting duties since 2000 have been as follows:

Calendar year	*General and pool betting duties receipts*
2000	520,134
2001	500,443
2002	309,661
2003	373,112
2004	449,596
2005	459,214
2006	379,767
2007	418,459
2008	412,098
2009	353,347

VAT and corporation tax are not broken down sufficiently to provide information relating to the bookmaking sector explicitly.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 340W, on taxation: carbon emissions, whether an environmental impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [11021]

Justine Greening: The spending review will include an assessment of the environmental impact of spending review decisions.

Terrorism: Finance

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 July 2010, *Official Report, columns 36-7WS*, on the Terrorist Asset-Freezing Bill, if he will publish details on the public consultation exercise that took place in advance of the publication of the Bill; [10096]

(2) what steps he intends to take to ensure that state benefits awarded to spouses will not be used for terrorist purposes. [10100]

Mr Hoban: The public consultation exercise on draft terrorist asset freezing legislation opened on 18 March 2010 and concluded on 18 June 2010.

Copies of the consultation and the Government's response can be found in the Library and on HM Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_terrorist_assetfreezing_bill.htm

The Government are committed to ensuring that persons subject to an asset freeze are not able to access funds for terrorist purposes. It is a criminal offence for a spouse, or any other person, to provide funds to someone subject to an asset freeze without a licence from the Treasury. The Treasury has written to spouses reminding them of the restrictions.

The Government investigate any potential breach of an asset freeze, and are committed to robust enforcement in any case where breaches are detected. These controls will ensure that asset freezing remains effective in preventing terrorist finance.

VAT: Churches

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme beyond March 2011. [8970]

John Penrose: I have been asked to reply as this is a heritage issue which falls under my remit.

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has played a significant role in supporting repairs to places of worship and I am aware that a decision regarding the scheme's future would be appreciated by all involved. However, this decision can only be taken as part of the wider discussions about Government spending priorities in the next spending round.

The Government will hold a full spending review reporting this autumn, following a fully consultative process involving all tiers of government and the private sector.

VAT: Helmets

Mrs Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to zero-rate motorcycle crash helmet replacement visors for value added tax. [10200]

Mr Gauke: Motorcycle crash helmets are zero-rated for VAT. However, the zero rate does not extend to visors or any other components or accessories supplied separately.

The agreements with our EU partners under which we are allowed to maintain our existing zero rates preclude us from extending their scope, or introducing new ones.

CABINET OFFICE

British-Irish Council

Mark Durkan: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Minister has lead responsibility for the British-Irish Council. [9615]

Mr Maude: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister has the lead responsibility within the UK Government for the British-Irish Council.

Census

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what consultation his Department has undertaken on the future of the Census. [11804]

Mr Maude: I have not undertaken any consultation on the future of the census. The development of alternatives to the census is the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics. They are taking this work forward through the Beyond 2011 project and will lead any future consultation.

Charity Commission: Public Consultation

Amber Rudd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what target time the Charity Commission sets for consideration of the outcome of a public consultation; [10912]

(2) whether the Charity Commission has taken a decision on its public consultation on the Hastings and St Leonard's Foreshore Charitable Trust which closed on 11 January 2010; when the decision will be announced; and if he will make a statement. [10913]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. I have asked the commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 22 July 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on what target time the Charity Commission sets for consideration of the outcome of a public consultation [10912].

The Commission has discretion, and in some cases is legally bound, to publicise its intention to make certain schemes and orders under the Charities Act 1993 (as amended by the Charities Act 2006). Representations received in response to public notice of draft schemes and orders are considered under the Commission's published Decision Review procedure. The Commission has made a commitment to complete all decision reviews of scheme and order representations within three months of the end of the period of notice, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

I hope this is helpful.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 22 July 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on whether the Charity Commission has taken a decision on its public consultation on the Hastings and St Leonard's Foreshore Charitable Trust which closed on 11 January 2010; when the decision will be announced; and if the Minister will make a statement [10913].

The Commission has conducted a formal review of our original proposed decision following the receipt of representations from members of the public regarding a draft scheme. Representatives of the Commission met with the trustees' representative and representatives of the Hastings Borough Council and the Commission has pursued questions through correspondence. The Commission has given its full consideration to the trustees' request to return the trusteeship back to the Council and to all the representations received. The Commission has taken its formal decision and is in the final stage of preparing it for publication. We expect to publish this within the next two weeks.

I hope this is helpful.

Civil Servants: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the work of civil servants based in Liverpool to public services in *(a)* that city and *(b)* the UK. [9477]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Civil servants deliver crucial services direct to the public across the UK. Civil servants in Liverpool, as in all regions, work in a wide range of areas that touch on everyone's day-to-day lives such as education, health, taxation and benefits.

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will ensure that his review of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme promotes protection for compensation arrangements for lower-paid workers in the public sector. [9968]

Mr Maude: I wrote to Paul Noon, Chairman of the Council of Civil Service Unions on 6 July 2010 inviting the unions to begin talks on a future compensation scheme with my officials. One key area for discussion is to what extent the future scheme can provide proportionately better terms for the lower paid.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) when he expects to announce details of the protection to be afforded to low-paid civil servants under the revised Civil Service Compensation Scheme; [10920]

(2) what recent progress he has made in negotiations with civil service unions on changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. [10921]

Mr Maude: I wrote to Paul Noon, chairman of the Council of Civil Service Unions on 6 July 2010 inviting the unions to begin talks on a future compensation scheme with my officials. One key area for discussion is to what extent the future scheme can provide proportionately better terms for the lower paid. I have since met the unions once and my officials have had further meetings with them.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants in each Department received as a redundancy settlement equivalent to or greater than six years salary in each of the last three years. [10963]

Mr Maude: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 375W.

Civil Servants: Retirement

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 19-20W, on senior civil servants: pensions, how many staff paid a lump sum on leaving the Civil Service are now employed *(a)* directly as consultants and *(b)* as non-executive directors in Government Departments and non-departmental government bodies; and what the posts are of each. [11650]

Mr Maude: This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11161]

Mr Maude: The information is as follows:

(a) The information is available only at disproportionate costs.

(b) The Cabinet Office is fully committed to the Prompt Payment Code and aims to pay all compliant invoices as soon as possible. However, the agreed contractual payment terms are normally for payment within 30 days of receipt of a compliant invoice.

The percentage of compliant invoices from all suppliers which were paid within 10 and 30 days of receipt is as follows:

		Percentage
2010	*Within 10 days*	*Within 30 days*
April	91.7	99.6
May	97.3	99.8
June	97.6	99.7

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days, (ii) over 30 days, (iii) over 60 days and (iv) over 90 days from the date of invoice in the last 12 months. [11199]

Mr Maude: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The number of compliant invoice payments made to suppliers by the Department for financial year 2009-10 are as follows:

Period	*Number of payments*
(i) Within 30 days	21,796
(ii) Over 30 days	168
(iii) Over 60 days	31
(iv) Over 90 days	4

(b) The number of payments made to suppliers by the Cabinet Office's agency for financial year 2009-10 are as follows:

Period	*Number of payments*
(i) Within 30 days	33,899
(ii) Over 30 days	914
(iii) Over 60 days	278
(iv) Over 90 days	205

(c) The number of compliant invoice payments made to suppliers by the Cabinet Office's non-departmental public bodies for financial year 2009-10 are as follows:

Period	*Number of payments*
(i) Within 30 days	1,572
(ii) Over 30 days	53
(iii) Over 60 days	4
(iv) Over 90 days	6

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10105]

Mr Maude: Details of expenditure in 2010-11 will only be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2011 summer recess.

Electoral Register

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were registered to vote in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley, *(c)* Greater London, *(d)* England, *(e)* Scotland, *(f)* Wales and *(g)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [9586]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many people were registered to vote in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, (b) the London Borough of Bexley, (c) Greater London, (d) England, (e) Scotland, (f) Wales and (g) Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available (9586).

The attached table shows the number of people registered to vote in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, the London Borough of Bexley, Greater London, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in local government and parliamentary elections. The figures provided are from 1 December 2005 to 1 December 2009, which are the latest available.

Number of people registered to vote in local government and parliamentary elections England

	2005		*2006*		*2007*[3]	
	Local Government Electors	*Parliamentary Electors*[1]	*Local Government Electors*	*Parliamentary Electors*[2]	*Local Government Electors*	*Parliamentary Electors*[2]
England	37,655,524	37,151,991	38,223,259	37,588,775	38,594,720	37,817,466

Number of people registered to vote in local government and parliamentary elections England

	2005[1]		2006		2007[3]	
	Local Government Electors	Parliamentary Electors[2]	Local Government Electors	Parliamentary Electors[2]	Local Government Electors	Parliamentary Electors[2]
Greater London	5,302,465	5,055,033	5,394,405	5,103,642	5,483,584	5,135,276
Bexley	171,226	169,760	172,667	170,775	173,979	171,646
Bexleyheath and Crayford	64,832	64,445	65,319	64,823	65,828	65,221
Wales	2,247,130	2,236,808	2,256,120	2,241,479	2,273,586	2,252,880
Scotland	3,884,464	3,861,207	3,902,706	3,872,901	3,926,262	3,887,571
Northern Ireland	1,156,991	1,153,409	1,075,078	1,070,265	1,125,935	1,20,343

	2008[1,2]		2009[3]	
	Local Government Electors	Parliamentary Electors	Local Government Electors	Parliamentary Electors[4]
England	38,795,341	37,912,549	39,086,135	38,129,082
Greater London	5,537,622	5,145,575	5,604,025	5,186,985
Bexley	172,086	169,504	173,748	170,905
Bexleyheath and Crayford	65,249	64,562	65,600	64,791
Wales	2,279,779	2,261,769	2,280,240	2,261,269
Scotland	3,930,244	3,885,148	3,919,219	3,869,700
Northern Ireland	1,142,513	1,134,983	1,170,296	1,160,757

[1] Figures for Scotland are based on the boundaries that came into effect on 10 February 2005.
[2] Figures for Wales are based on the boundaries that were in place prior to the National Assembly for Wales elections in May 2007.
[3] Some local authorities in England and Wales were unable to provide data, therefore previous years' data were used.
[4] Figures for England and Wales are based on the boundaries that came into place at the general election in May 2010.
Source:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, and Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of nationals of other EU member states in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley, *(c)* Greater London and *(d)* England who are registered to vote and are not eligible to vote in general elections. [9587]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the number of nationals of other EU member states in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, (b) the London Borough of Bexley, (c) Greater London and (d) England who are registered to vote and are not eligible to vote in general elections (9587).

The table shows the number of nationals of other EU states (excluding British, Irish, Cypriot and Maltese nationals) in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, the London Borough of Bexley, Greater London and England who are registered to vote in local and European elections as at 1 December 2009. These are the latest figures available. European citizens are not eligible to vote in parliamentary or general elections. In this context, it is assumed other EU states mean those other than Britain, Ireland, Cyprus or Malta. Cypriots and Maltese citizens are eligible to vote in local, European and general elections due to their Commonwealth status.

Members of other EU member states registered to vote, 2009[1]

Area	Number
England	964,376
Greater London	419,359
Bexley	2,886
Bexleyheath and Crayford	823

[1] Figures are based on the constituencies that came into effect at the general election in May 2010.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of non-EU nationals in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley, *(c)* Greater London and *(d)* England who are registered to vote in (i) general and (ii) local elections. [9588]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate he has made of the number of non-EU nationals in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, (b) the London Borough of Bexley, (c) Greater London and (d) England who are registered to vote in (i) general and (ii) local elections (9588).

ONS does not hold data on non-EU nationals who are registered to vote.

Mr Brady: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of citizens of *(a)* Commonwealth countries and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland on the electoral register in the UK. [11153]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate he has made of the number of citizens of (a) Commonwealth countries and (b) the Republic of Ireland on the electoral register. (11153)

ONS does not hold specific data on the number of Commonwealth citizens or Republic of Ireland citizens registered to vote.

Electoral Register: Greater London

Nick de Bois: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of non-EU nationals in *(a)* Enfield North constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Enfield and *(c)* Greater London who are registered to vote in (i) general and (ii) local elections. [9957]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate he has made of the number of non-EU nationals in (a) Enfield North constituency, (b) the London Borough of Enfield, and (c) Greater London who are registered to vote in (i) general and (ii) local elections (9957).

ONS does not hold data on non-EU nationals who are registered to vote.

Nick de Bois: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of nationals of other EU member states in *(a)* Enfield North constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Enfield and *(c)* Greater London who are registered to vote and not eligible to vote in general elections. [9958]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the number of nationals of other EU member states in (a) Enfield North constituency, (b) the London Borough of Enfield and (c) Greater London who are registered to vote and are not eligible to vote in general elections (9958).

The table shows the number of nationals of other EU states (excluding British, Irish, Cypriot and Maltese nationals) in Enfield North constituency, the London Borough of Enfield and Greater London who are registered to vote in local and European elections as at 1 December 2009. These are the latest figures available. European citizens are not eligible to vote in parliamentary or general elections. In this context it is assumed other EU states mean those other than Britain, Ireland, Cyprus or Malta. Cypriots and Maltese citizens are eligible to vote in local, European and general elections due to their Commonwealth status.

Members of other EU member states registered to vote

Area	*2009*[1]
Greater London	419,359
Enfield	11,634
Enfield North	3,253

[1] Figures are based on the constituencies that came into effect at the general election in May 2010.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his Department's responsibilities are for the implementation of the Government's commitment to a 10% year-on-year reduction in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from the central government estate in the next 12 months. [9649]

Mr Maude: The Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement (CESP) within the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) has recently moved from Treasury to join the Efficiency Reform Group (ERG) part of the Cabinet Office following a machinery of government change. The CESP within ERG is responsible for setting departmental allocation of the pan-government 10% reduction in emissions as well as: tracking, reporting and monitoring the in-year delivery of this reduction commitment across Government.

In terms of carbon reduction, the Cabinet Office's responsibilities in the next 12 months are to make a 10% reduction and a further 1% contingency reduction in its estate based carbon emissions.

Government Departments: Construction

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 671W, on Office of Government Commerce common minimum standards for construction, if he will publish the Office of Government Commerce initial review into Common Minimum Standards. [10035]

Mr Maude: The initial review of the Common Minimum Standards referred to in the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 671W, relates to work undertaken by the Construction Category team of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) to determine the work necessary to update the CMS. This informal assessment exercise led to the plan to fully update the existing CMS document later this year (2010-11).

I should clarify that the review of the content of CMS has yet to begin, so there is no further documentation to publish at this stage, however, a revised CMS will be published following the completion of the necessary revisions.

Life Expectancy: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of the average life expectancy for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each ward in the London borough of Bexley. [9585]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what recent estimate has been made of the average life expectancy for (a) men and (b) women in each ward in the London Borough of Bexley. (9585)

ONS does not routinely calculate life expectancies for individual local authority wards. However, period life expectancy figures for 1999-2003 based on 2001 Census Standard Table wards in England and Wales were published as experimental statistics in June 2006. Experimental statistics—which are in a testing or consultation phase and are not fully developed—should be treated with caution. Life expectancies for wards can be based on very small numbers of deaths and small populations. They may therefore be subject to large variations even when aggregated over five years, as shown by the width of the '95% confidence interval' in the tables. More information about these statistics can be found here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=14466

The table attached provides life expectancy figures at birth for all wards in the London borough of Bexley for (a) males and (b) females, for the five year period 1999-2003, based on these experimental statistics.

Table 1: Life expectancy at birth for males, by ward in the London borough of Bexley, 1999-2003[1,2]

Ward	*Life expectancy at birth (years)*	*95% confidence interval*[3]	*Communal establishment indicator*[4]
Barnehurst	78	(76-79)	0
Belvedere	78	(76-79)	0
Blackfen and Lamorbey	79	(77-80)	0
Blendon and Penhill	79	(78-81)	0
Brampton	79	(77-80)	0
Christchurch	77	(75-78)	3
Colyers	74	(73-76)	2
Cray Meadows	77	(76-79)	1
Crayford	77	(75-79)	0
Danson Park	78	(76-80)	1
East Wickham	78	(77-80)	1
Erith	76	(74-77)	0
Falconwood and Welling	78	(77-80)	0
Lesnes Abbey	77	(75-79)	2
Longlands	78	(76-79)	5
North End	73	(71-75)	0
Northumberland Heath	78	(76-79)	0
Sidcup	75	(73-77)	4
St Mary's	79	(77-80)	2
St Michael's	78	(77-80)	0
Thamesmead East	75	(73-77)	3

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Five year averages, based on deaths registered in each year, and experimental ward population estimates based on the 2001 Census. The ward names and boundaries used are 2001 Census Standard Table wards.

[3] Confidence intervals (CIs) are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[4] The presence of medical and care communal establishments, such as nursing homes and hospices, can artificially depress the average life expectancy of the ward in which they are located. To aid interpretation of the figures, this indicator shows the proportion of the population of each ward, aged 65 and over, who were resident in such establishments in 2001. For this purpose, all wards in England and Wales (not only the wards in these boroughs) were divided into six groups which are numbered from 0 to 5:

'0' means that none of the over-65 population lived in medical and care communal establishments;

'1' means that the proportion of the over-65 population in such establishments was in the lowest fifth of all wards;

'5' means that the proportion of the over-65 population in such establishments was in the highest fifth of all wards.

Table 2: Life expectancy at birth for females, by ward in the London borough of Bexley, 1999-2003[1,2]

Ward	*Life expectancy at birth (years)*	*95% confidence interval*[3]	*Communal establishment indicator*[4]
Barnehurst	83	(81-84)	0
Belvedere	80	(79-82)	0
Blackfen and Lamorbey	83	(81-84)	0
Blendon and Penhill	82	(81-84)	0
Brampton	84	(83-85)	0
Christchurch	80	(78-81)	3
Colyers	80	(78-81)	2
Cray Meadows	81	(79-83)	1
Crayford	83	(81-85)	0
Danson Park	81	(80-83)	2
East Wickham	81	(80-83)	2

Table 2: Life expectancy at birth for females, by ward in the London borough of Bexley, 1999-2003[1,2]

Ward	*Life expectancy at birth (years)*	*95% confidence interval*[3]	*Communal establishment indicator*[4]
Erith	80	(78-82)	2
Falconwood and Welling	82	(80-83)	0
Lesnes Abbey	82	(81-83)	2
Longlands	81	(80-83)	4
North End	79	(77-81)	0
Northumberland Heath	81	(79-83)	0
Sidcup	80	(78-81)	5
St Mary's	83	(81-84)	2
St Michael's	83	(81-84)	0
Thamesmead East	79	(78-81)	4

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Five year averages, based on deaths registered in each year, and experimental ward population estimates based on the 2001 Census. The ward names and boundaries used are 2001 Census Standard Table wards.

[3] Confidence intervals (CIs) are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[4] The presence of medical and care communal establishments, such as nursing homes and hospices, can artificially depress the average life expectancy of the ward in which they are located. To aid interpretation of the figures, this indicator shows the proportion of the population of each ward, aged 65 and over, who were resident in such establishments in 2001. For this purpose, all wards in England and Wales (not only the wards in these boroughs) were divided into six groups which are numbered from 0 to 5:
'0' means that none of the over-65 population lived in medical and care communal establishments;
'1' means that the proportion of the over-65 population in such establishments was in the lowest fifth of all wards;
'5' means that the proportion of the over-65 population in such establishments was in the highest fifth of all wards.

Lone Parents: Hornchurch

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency. [9880]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in Hornchurch and Upminster. (9880)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figures are for 2008 and are shown in the table below. These are based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries. Hornchurch constituency, as constituted in 2008, consisted of 8 electoral wards, while Upminster constituency consisted of 7 electoral wards. However the 2010 parliamentary constituency 'Hornchurch and Upminster' consists of 8 wards drawn from both former constituencies. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the two 2008 constituencies.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families—with at least one child under 16 (Thousand)*
Hornchurch constituency (2008)	2
Upminster constituency (2008)	2
Hornchurch and Upminster constituency (current)	n/a

n/a = Not available
Source:
APS January to December 2008

Lone Parents: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency. [9686]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency. (9686)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary. Liverpool, Wavertree constituency, as constituted in 2008, consisted of 14 electoral wards, eight fewer than the current constituency. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the 2008 constituency.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families with at least one child under 16 (Thousand)*[1]
Liverpool, Wavertree constituency (2008)	4

[1] As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty and are therefore presented rounded to the nearest thousand.
Source:
APS January to December 2008

Migration: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the change to the level of the population of Bedfordshire *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly attributable to migration in each year since 1990. [9727]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate his Department has made of the change to the level of the population of Bedfordshire (a) directly and (b) indirectly attributable to migration in each year since 1990 (9727)

The table shows the volume of population change in Bedfordshire directly attributable to migration in each year since mid-1991. Figures are not available below national level prior to 1991.

ONS does not have the necessary information to provide an estimate of the volume of population change indirectly attributable to migration.

Population change due to net migration and other changes, Bedfordshire, mid-1991 to mid-2009

	Net migration and other changes
1991-92	500
1992-93	-1,600
1993-94	-600
1994-95	200
1995-96	1,300
1996-97	1,400
1997-98	900
1998-99	4,100
1999-2000	2,500
2000-01	2,600
2001-02	3,700
2002-03	3,200
2003-04	2,400
2004-05	1,800
2005-06	1,600
2006-07	1,500
2007-08	2,000
2008-09	200

Note:
'Other changes' includes changes in the population due to changes in the number of armed forces (both foreign and home) and their dependents resident in the UK.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

New Businesses: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses were started in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the county of Bedfordshire in 2009-10. [9728]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 16 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many new businesses were started in (a) Mid Bedfordshire constituency and (b) the county of Bedfordshire in 2009-10. [9728]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on enterprise births in 2008 for Mid Bedfordshire constituency and the county of Bedfordshire.

Count of enterprise birth in 2008 for the county of Bedfordshire and Mid Bedfordshire constituency

	Number
Bedfordshire county	1,950
Mid Bedfordshire	520

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 801W, on non-departmental public bodies, when he expects to announce the number of non-departmental public bodies to be abolished. [10183]

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on the abolition of non-departmental public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [10557]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to reducing the number of public bodies to increase accountability and reduce costs. To this end, I am working with Departments to assess the public bodies that fall within their areas of responsibility against three tests: do they perform a technical function; do they require political impartiality; or do they act independently to establish facts. We expect to publish the outcome of this assessment by the autumn.

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 801W, on non-departmental public bodies, whether he plans to issue guidance to those non-departmental public bodies that are to be abolished on expenditure by them on lobbying activities. [10184]

Mr Maude: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Harrogate and Knaresborough (Andrew Jones) earlier.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much in cash reserves is held by each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies; and how much each such body spent in the latest year for which information is available. [10659]

Mr Maude: The total cash held by Capacity Builders (UK) Ltd as at 31 March 2010 amounted to £1,920,768.

The total cash held by the Commission for the Compact Ltd as at 31 March 2010 amounted to £293,165.

Details of 2009-10 spend for both executive non-departmental public bodies can be found in their individual Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10.

Population

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent advice he has received on the *(a)* accuracy of, *(b)* cost of and *(c)* practical arrangements for using methods other than the national census to measure the UK's population. [9679]

Mr Maude: The UK Statistics Authority is responsible for carrying out the census in England and Wales. The board of the authority has expressed the view that the 2011 census should be the last conduction on the traditional basis. Through the 'Beyond 2011' project the authority has been considering alternative ways of obtaining information that has been traditionally gathered via a census.

The current advice from the ONS is clear. Census alternatives are not sufficiently developed to provide now the information required to meet essential UK and EU requirements. It is therefore important that the census goes ahead in England and Wales on 27 March 2011. ONS must do all it can to ensure it is a success.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the most recent projections made by the Office for National Statistics are of population densities in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland for (i) the earliest date for which such projections have been made, (ii) 2031, (iii) 2056 and (iv) the most distant date for which such projections have been made; what estimate has been made of the population density of each such area in 2010; and if he will rank the UK in terms of the 2010 population density of each EU member state, giving the population density for each member state. [10595]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, asking what the most recent projections made by the Office for National Statistics are of population densities in (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales and (e) Northern Ireland for (i) the earliest date for which such projections have been made, (ii) 2031, (iii) 2056 and (iv) the most distant date for which such projections have been made; what estimate has been made of the population density of each such area in 2010; and if he will rank the UK in terms of the 2010 population density of each KU member state, giving the population density for each member state. (10595)

Projected population densities can be calculated for any year from the published projected total population for that year and the relevant land area. The estimated population density for mid-2009 and projected population densities derived from the 2008 population base for the years 2010, 2031, 2056 and 2108 are given in the table below.

Estimated and projected population density of UK and constituent countries for selected years, 2009 to 2108

Persons/sq km

	2009	*2010*	*2031*	*2056*	*2108*
United Kingdom	255	257	293	323	381
England	398	401	461	516	622
Wales	145	145	160	170	186
Scotland	67	67	71	71	71
Northern Ireland	132	133	148	153	147

Note:

Population densities for 2009 are derived from mid-year population estimates, whilst those for 2010 onwards are derived from the 2008-based national population projections. All densities have been calculated assuming constant land area for the UK and its constituent countries into the future.

Source:

Office for National Statistics. General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

National population projections are produced for up to 100 years ahead, but only published for up to 75 years ahead, and are available from the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlink-8519

However, long-term projections should be treated with great caution. Population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward, particularly for smaller geographic areas.

Eurostat publishes estimates of population densities for all EU countries up to 2007 (see table tps00003 under main demographic indicators at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/main_tables

Public Bodies: Lobbying

Andrew Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will issue guidance to Government Departments on the retention and use of lobbying companies by publicly-funded bodies for the provision of lobbying and support services to campaign for increased funding. [9460]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office publication, "Public Bodies: A Guide for Departments", states that it is an improper use of public funds for non-departmental public bodies to employ PR or other consultants to lobby Parliament or Government Departments in order to obtain higher funding. This guidance is available at

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/public-bodies.aspx

and copies are available in the Library of the House.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Research

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the proposals for future research and development of low carbon energy technologies in the Committee on Climate Change's report on Building a low-carbon economy. [10940]

Gregory Barker: The Committee on Climate Change's report: "Building a Low Carbon Economy—the UK's Innovation Challenge", was commissioned under the previous Government. We value the Committee's work and will consider the findings carefully alongside the spending review process.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9256]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold any central information on the time taken by contractors (tier one suppliers) to pay their sub-contractors (tier two suppliers). However, we are working closely with tier one suppliers to ensure that tier two suppliers receive payment promptly by:

reviewing payment performance as part of the standard contract management process;

ensuring tier one suppliers include in the relevant contract a provision which requires the tier one supplier to pay the tier two supplier within 30 days; and

enabling tier two suppliers to report any concerns they feel have not been adequately addressed direct to the Department or via the Office of Government Commerce's supplier feedback process.

We remain committed to paying invoices within five working days and continue to work closely with our suppliers to ensure that the benefits are felt by all in the supply chain.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the contracts between his Department and private sector companies which will be cancelled under his Department's planned spending reductions. [10168]

Gregory Barker: The full range of contracts with the Department of Energy and Climate Change are currently under review. At the present time there is no estimate available as to the value of contracts that may be cancelled or re-negotiated.

Departmental Correspondence

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9659]

Gregory Barker: The private offices maintain guidance on the departmental intranet which provides general advice for officials working with Ministers.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since its inception. [R] [7338]

Gregory Barker: DECC only became a legal entity on 5 March 2009, and therefore in 2008-09 the core ICT services for DECC were still supplied and funded by DEFRA and BIS. DECC's total annual ICT expenditure for 2008-09 therefore was only £205,000. The 2008-09 ICT expenditure for non-departmental public bodies was £10.14 million.

DECC's total annual ICT expenditure for 2009-10 was £8.44 million. This expenditure includes the cost of setting up and rolling out a new ICT system for the Department. The 2009-10 ICT expenditure for non-departmental public bodies was £12.42 million. The non-departmental public bodies covered by this figure are: the Coal Authority, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Civil Nuclear Police Authority and Committee on Climate Change.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7297]

Gregory Barker: One civil servant is employed to write speeches for Ministers. Civil servants from across the Department are also involved as part of their duties in drafting ministerial speeches. Special advisers will also input on occasion.

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7978]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 344W, to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson).

In addition, the Government publish on a quarterly basis, the expenses incurred by the most senior officials which includes use of Government car service and other travel expenses.

Energy Efficiency

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which representatives of industrial sectors his Department has had discussions on the energy efficiency measures to be included in the Green Deal. [10323]

Gregory Barker: Discussions have taken place with a number of leading organisations in the retail, installation, energy and finance sectors to discuss the broad scope of the Green Deal. These discussions will continue as we develop the detailed policy, including those measures that can be included as part of the Green Deal offer.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the installation of thermostats in homes to homes obtaining insulation and other energy efficiency measures under proposed pay-as-you-save schemes; [10626]

(2) what requirement for the installation of thermostats he intends to make in homes participating in proposed pay-as-you-save insulation schemes. [10661]

Gregory Barker: Installations such as heating controls and thermostats, are important for helping households to control their overall energy use. The Green Deal will allow people to install certain energy efficiency measures in their homes, which can be paid for through their energy bill savings. We will be setting out the measures that qualify for the Green Deal in secondary legislation once the forthcoming Energy Bill has received Assent.

Energy: Prices

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether penalties apply to energy suppliers for breaches of standards of conduct in respect of energy tariffs; [11609]

(2) if he will discuss with Ofgem the transparency of the process whereby wholesale energy prices are used to calculate domestic energy prices; [11612]

(3) if he will take steps to increase the level of transparency in energy pricing in the *(a)* wholesale and *(b)* retail energy markets; [11613]

(4) if his Department will undertake research on the link between wholesale and retail energy prices; [11614]

(5) what criteria his Department uses to assess the extent to which the wholesale cost of energy reflects the cost of its generation; [11615]

(6) what mechanism his Department uses to estimate the link between *(a)* wholesale and *(b)* domestic energy prices; [11616]

(7) by what mechanism his Department assesses whether energy suppliers are adhering to the standards of conduct in respect of energy tariffs. [11617]

Charles Hendry: Following its Energy Market Supply Probe, Ofgem introduced new standards of conduct which provide a guide to customers about the level of service they can expect from an energy supplier.

These standards are not enforceable against energy suppliers but are supported by obligations in licences and under consumer protection law, and form part of the wider context for possible Ofgem enforcement action.

Ofgem will take the standards into account when it decides whether to investigate potential licence breaches by suppliers and, where relevant, as part of Ofgem consideration of consumer detriment for the purposes of suspected breaches of licence conditions and proposals for licence modifications leading to further regulatory rules.

Wholesale energy costs account for around 60% of a domestic customer's energy bill and are a major consideration in suppliers' retail pricing decisions. The relationship between wholesale costs and retail prices is complex, hence the importance of transparency. In the 2008 pre-Budget report, Ofgem were asked to produce a quarterly update on the link between wholesale and retail energy prices precisely in order to increase levels of pricing transparency. The latest report showed the major suppliers have cut their prices in response to falling wholesale prices and that margins were lower than in the previous quarter. Ofgem has said that if suppliers stopped competing on price or domestic prices did not respond to a sustained fall in wholesale prices, it would look closely at the market.

Competition is vital to keeping bills as low as possible. Ofgem continues working to reduce barriers to entering the retail market and will publish a report on wholesale market liquidity in summer 2010.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria are used to determine whether consumers are being charged fairly for domestic energy. [11619]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem, the independent sector regulator is responsible for ensuring that consumers are treated fairly by their energy suppliers.

Following its probe into retail energy markets in 2008 Ofgem took steps to prohibit unfair and excessive price differences between different groups of consumers (e.g. unjustified premiums for pre payment meters). Ofgem have recently reported that price differentials are now largely in line with differences in costs, but will continue to monitor this.

Environment Protection: Low Incomes

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on those on low incomes of measures to tackle climate change. [10102]

Gregory Barker: The Analytical Annex of the Low Carbon Transition Plan (LCTP) from July 2009 included the last published estimates of the distributional implications of climate change and energy policies on energy bills. As noted in the LCTP lower income households face a lower absolute increase in their energy bills however, they typically spend a greater share of their income on energy bills. By 2020, energy bills as a percentage of income are estimated to increase from an average of 12.7% to 14.2% for households in the bottom income decile. For more details see the Analytical Annex of the LCTP available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/Default.aspx?term=low%20carbon%20transition%20plan&tags=&urn=&fromDate=&toDate=&alpha=

The Government recognise the need to help more of the most vulnerable to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost. A significant number of fuel poor and vulnerable households have already received support to upgrade the thermal performance of their dwelling through policies such as Warm Front and CERT. In bringing forward our proposals for a Green Deal, we will ensure that we will help more of the most vulnerable households on the lowest incomes.

Environmental Projects

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will commission a review of the procurement of power purchase agreements in order to examine the ability of small environmental projects in development to tender for Government contracts. [10503]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) offer a new and innovative method of purchasing electricity for the public sector. They provide opportunities to generate cost savings and facilitate new energy generation, supporting smaller renewable energy generators.

Initial investigations into the opportunities offered by PPAs have already been undertaken, with future work to be taken forward by the Efficiency and Reform Group as part of this Government's commitment to centralise the procurement of commodity goods and services across Government.

Farmers: Carbon Trust

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether farmers continue to be eligible for interest-free loans from the Carbon Trust. [10608]

Gregory Barker: Farmers in England are eligible to apply for Carbon Trust administered interest free energy efficiency loans of up to £20,000.

Fuel Poverty

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what targets his Department has set for reducing the level of fuel poverty; and what assessment he has made of the contribution of the Warm Front scheme to his Department's objectives. [9935]

Gregory Barker: We will continue to look at ways in which we can make further progress towards the fuel poverty goals and remain committed to doing all that is reasonably practicable to eradicate fuel poverty in all households in England by 2016.

Government are totally committed to helping those households that are in fuel poverty. We recognise the need to help more of the most vulnerable to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost.

Warm Front is key to tackling fuel poverty in private sector households and has assisted over 2.1 million vulnerable households, across England, since its inception in June 2000.

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps are being taken by his Department to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016. [10257]

Gregory Barker: Government recently announced the extension of a more ambitious and targeted Carbon Emissions Reduction Target to December 2012, paving the way for the Green Deal. This extension will require a significant and urgent increase in home energy insulation. Through the extension we are requiring a greater focus on helping low income households than ever before. This will result in the investment of over £400 million in the most vulnerable GB homes.

Approximately 175,000 households are expected to be provided measures which can provide a long term solution to fuel poverty. Many more will receive measures which will protect them from falling into fuel poverty.

The Warm Front Scheme is key to tackling fuel poverty and has assisted over 2.1 million vulnerable households, across England, since its inception in June 2000.

We have the powers to introduce mandated social price support through the Energy Act 2010 and, subject to the outcome of the spending review and consultation, we intend to introduce the first scheme in 2011.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of households in *(a)* Bedford constituency, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England and Wales which are in fuel poverty. [11279]

Gregory Barker: In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 3,000 (8%) fuel poor households in the Bedford constituency.

In 2007, there were 253,000 (11%) fuel poor households in the East of England and 2.8 million (13%) fuel poor households in England. The latest figure from the Welsh Assembly Government shows a projected figure of around 243,000 (20%) households in fuel poverty in 2006.

National Concessionary Fuel Office

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has for the future *(a)* administration and *(b)* funding of the National Concessionary Fuel Office. [11123]

Charles Hendry: The Department has no current plans to change the existing arrangements of the National Concessionary Fuel Scheme (NCFS).

Oil: Scotland

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with the chief executive of Cairn Energy since July 2009 on its plans to drill for oil off the coast of Scotland; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings. [11913]

Charles Hendry: None. Cairn Energy hold no UK petroleum licences.

Renewable Energy

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK bioliquids sector of the Ofgem ruling of March 2009 on eligibility for the Renewables Obligation of fuel from bioliquids produced with methods involving methanol from natural gas; and what representations his Department has received on the matter. [10398]

Charles Hendry: Following Ofgem's March 2009 ruling the Department has received representations from a number of companies regarding bioliquids produced with methods involving methanol from natural gas. We are currently in the process of amending the renewables obligation order to incorporate the sustainability criteria for bioliquids in compliance with the renewable energy directive. This will include consulting on allowing bioliquids used for electricity generation where they are derived from fossil fuel, such as biodiesel, which meet the sustainability criteria to be included in the renewables obligation.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what consideration he has given to the merits of amending the Renewables Obligation to allow partial certification of renewable energy produced using small amounts of material derived from fossil fuel; [10399]

(2) what consideration he has made of the merits of amending the provisions of the Renewables Obligation in respect of bioliquids produced from waste oils which contain traces of methanol or other recycle fossil fuels to reflect the comparable provisions in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. [10400]

Charles Hendry: We are currently in the process of amending the renewables obligation order to incorporate the sustainability criteria for bioliquids in compliance with the renewable energy directive. This will include consulting on allowing bioliquids used for electricity generation where they are derived from fossil fuel, such as biodiesel, which meet the sustainability criteria to be included in the renewables obligation.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish information on the energy generated from renewable resources in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [10951]

Gregory Barker: Statistics on renewable electricity, heat and biofuels during 2009 were contained in a special feature article within the June 2010 edition of Energy Trends, which is available on the Department's website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/trends/trends.aspx

and in the Libraries of the House. More detailed information will be published on 29 July 2010 within Chapter 7 of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics, which will also be available both on the website and in the Libraries of the House.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has allocated to assist environmental businesses operating in the photovoltaic market. [11248]

Charles Hendry: The main grant programmes for electrical microgeneration, including the low carbon buildings programme (LCBP) have now ceased and have been replaced by the feed-in tariff (FIT's), where those who produce their own electricity will receive payments for the electricity they produce and any electricity that they feed back into the 'grid'. Since the scheme has only been running three months it is too early to identify trends in take-up.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage individual investment in photovoltaic solar panel installations. [11250]

Charles Hendry: Since April this year the main vehicle for supporting investment in solar photovoltaics is the Feed-in Tariff, which is available for a range of small scale low carbon technologies, including PV. The Government are also consulting on a new Microgeneration Strategy, which will aim to tackle non-financial barriers to development of the microgeneration market, including solar photovoltaics.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the merits of generation of electricity by solar panels on domestic homes. [11400]

Charles Hendry: The Government recognise that solar panels have an important part to play in helping to reduce carbon emissions in homes, and increase the deployment of renewables in the UK.

Solar panels are supported through the Feed In Tariffs (FITs) scheme, which was introduced on 1 April 2010. This is a financial support scheme for eligible low carbon electricity technologies aimed at small-scale installations (maximum capacity of 5 Megawatts). The merits of providing support to solar PV panels and other technologies were assessed in the Impact Assessment published at the time the scheme was launched. Further information is available at:

www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/Renewable%20Electricity%20Financial%20Incentives/1_20100204103559_e_@@_FITsImpactAssessmentaccompanyingGovernmentResponse.pdf

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to assess the merits of including electricity from *(a)* anaerobic digestion, *(b)* hydropower and *(c)* geothermal power in his Department's feed-in tariff scheme. [9536]

Gregory Barker: FITs for small-scale low-carbon electricity are intended primarily to support the widespread deployment of proven technologies now and up to 2020, rather than to support development of unproven technologies. Since the scheme's launch on 1 April, tariffs have only been offered to those technologies which we consider can be deployed at scale in the short term. These include anaerobic digestion and hydropower but do not currently include geothermal power.

The FITs scheme will be subject to periodic review which will include consideration of the eligibility of different technologies. We are continually collecting data which, as we learn more, will be fed into the review process.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of the feed-in tariff scheme for photo voltaic solar panels; and what assessment he has made of the contribution of that scheme to his Department's objective on *(a)* reducing reliance on carbon-based fuels and *(b)* encouraging microgeneration. [11245]

Charles Hendry: The feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme, which was introduced on 1 April 2010, sets tariffs for new photovoltaic (PV) out to 2020, with payments to generators for 25 years. From 2012 the tariffs will reduce automatically each year for new installations.

We will undertake periodic reviews of FITs, which will provide opportunities to assess how the scheme is working in practice and to make changes if these are necessary.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on changing the tax treatment of revenue from feed-in tariffs. [11246]

Charles Hendry: The tax treatment of income from feed-in tariffs is a matter for my right hon. Friend the

Chancellor of the Exchequer. Officials of the Department are in regular contact with officials of HM Treasury on this issue.

Renewable Energy: Regional Development Agencies

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department provided to regional development agencies for the purpose of developing renewable energies in each of the last three years. [9703]

Gregory Barker: Regional development agencies (RDAs) are funded via a single budget made up of contributions from funding Departments. DECC's contribution to the budget in 2009-10 was £45.824 million. Prior to this contributions were made by DECC's predecessor Departments. RDAs set their own priorities so none of DECC's funding was provided specifically for developing renewable energies.

Renewable Heat Incentive

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of renewable energy generation he has informed the EU will be provided by the implementation of the Renewable Heat Incentive under the terms of Article 4 of the Renewable Energy Directive 2009. [10627]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to increasing the amount of renewable heat in the UK; this is a crucial part of ensuring we meet our renewables targets, cutting carbon and ensuring energy security. The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan contained projections for renewable energy based on the lead scenario for meeting the 2020 target. If markets and technologies develop along the lines of this scenario then we would expect the share of heat generation from renewable sources to increase to around 12% by 2020. The Renewable Heat Incentive proposals, which were published for consultation under the previous administration earlier this year, were aimed at achieving this increase.

We are still looking at the renewable heat incentive (RHI) proposals, including the impact of the costs, particularly given the financial constraints we must work within and the potential impact that funding options could have on vulnerable people. We want to provide certainty and clarity as quickly as possible, but must make sure that we make the right decision. We will look to make an announcement on the future of the proposed scheme as soon as possible.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce his decision on the Renewable Heat Incentive; and if he will make a statement. [10855]

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 78W, on renewable energy: feed-in tariffs, when he expects to make an announcement on the Renewable Heat Incentive; and if he will make a statement. [10976]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) on 15 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 367-68W.

Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on Wales of his Department's planned spending reductions. [8989]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 496W. Since then, the Department has decided how savings will be made on its national Environmental Transformation Fund and Low Carbon Investment Funding. This will not result in the loss of programmes that were targeted specifically at Wales.

Wind Power

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to end the Renewables Obligation scheme for onshore wind. [11242]

Charles Hendry: We are committed to the full establishment of feed-in tariff systems in electricity—as well as the maintenance of banded ROCs. We will make any changes to the support mechanism for renewables in the context of the wider work on electricity market reform, and in a way that preserves investor confidence.

Windows: Energy

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to increase the number of households installing energy efficient windows. [10321]

Gregory Barker: Issues relating to the glazing industry are a matter primarily for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. In some circumstances, glazing is an eligible measure under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and the Community Energy Saving Programme, which runs until the end of 2012. These are currently the principle schemes for delivering household energy efficiency in Great Britain.

The Government are currently developing the Green Deal programme, which will allow people to install certain energy efficiency measures in their homes with no up-front costs, which can be paid for through their energy bill savings. We will be setting out the measures that qualify for the Green Deal in secondary legislation once the forthcoming Energy Bill has received Assent.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his plans are for future levels of funding for the Access to Work programme. [10643]

Chris Grayling: Access to Work provides financial help towards the extra costs faced by people with a disability in work, where this goes beyond what would be reasonable for an employer to meet. Access to Work supported 32,120 disabled people during 2008-09. Official Statistics for 2009-10 will be published on 27 July.

The Government are reviewing current welfare to work programmes, including Access to Work, to ensure disabled people are given the right support to get a job and remain in employment. We are committed to ensuring disabled people are given the right support they need to get a job and remain in employment.

The coalition agreement announced

> 'We will reform Access to Work, so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need'

We are developing plans for delivering this commitment and further details will be announced in due course.

Allied Steel and Wire: Pensions

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken in respect of the pensions of former employees of Allied Steel and Wire. [10765]

Steve Webb: Allied Steel and Wire (ASW) Cardiff qualified for the Financial Assistance Scheme on 24 October 2005 and ASW Sheerness qualified for the FAS on 26 October 2005.

I met campaigners including Community, Unite, GMB and a member of the ASW scheme on 14 July to discuss the Financial Assistance Scheme.

Child Tax Credit: Aberdeenshire

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families resident in Banff and Buchan constituency will be affected by changes to child tax credit due to come into effect in April 2011; and what estimate he has made of the likely average change in the level of child tax credit. [10540]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 28 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 461W.

Information on the average change in child tax credit within each constituency is available only at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax Benefit

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when his Department plans to rename council tax benefit as council tax rebate; [4540]

(2) what progress his Department has made towards renaming council tax benefit as council tax rebate. [4541]

Steve Webb: We cannot commit to a timetable for implementation until we have fully assessed the precise costs and impact of this change. We are engaging with local authorities and their IT suppliers in work to establish the particular delivery implications and associated costs for local authorities. Similar work is being carried out within Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service where there are major implications for IT systems which link to local authorities' systems and play a crucial role in supporting benefit claims.

Credit Unions

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future funding of credit unions; and if he will make a statement. [10436]

Steve Webb: Existing arrangements for funding credit unions through the Department for Work and Pensions are due to end on 31 March 2011. No firm plans beyond that date have been agreed.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7356]

Chris Grayling: In 1998 the Department entered into a 20 year PFI contract for the provision of fully serviced accommodation for the Department for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. Refurbishment is one of the services provided but the cost of it cannot be disaggregated from the unitary charge.

Some refurbishments are not covered by the unitary charge and are funded separately as capital expenditure, which would include major projects, and the fit out of new buildings. Expenditure increased from 2002 when the Department embarked on a major programme funded by the Treasury to improve the services delivered to the public, including those provided by Jobcentre Plus, the Pension, Disability and Carers Service and Debt Management Services. Expenditure increased in 2009-10 because of the Department's response to the economic downturn. The Department and its predecessors' expenditure on these major refurbishment projects is set out in the following table. To separate the costs prior to 2008-09 could be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

	£ million
1997-98	52.4
1998-99	14.6
1999-2000	23.3
2000-01	23.7
2001-02	77.8
2002-03	170.0
2003-04	282.3
2004-05	117.3
2005-06	278.9
2006-07	162.2
2007-08	48.2

£ million

	Corporate	*Pension, Disability and Carers Service*	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Total*
2008-09	14.6	0.7	7.3	22.6
2009-10	5.7	1.8	49.4	56.9

Refurbishment costs for NDPBs not covered by the PFI contract are as follows:

£

	Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	*Health and Safety Executive*	*Independent Living Fund*	*Pension Protection Fund*	*Personal Accounts Delivery Authority*	*The Pensions Advisory Service*	*The Pensions Regulator*
1997-98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
199-2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2000-01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2001-02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2002-03	—	5,263,000	—	—	—	—	—
2003-04	—	1,636,000	—	—	—	—	—
2004-05	—	2,627,000	—	—	—	—	—
2005-06	—	1,261,000	—	—	—	—	1,387,931
2006-07	—	4,229,000	—	—	—	—	—
2007-08	—	2,512,000	—	—	—	—	—
2008-09	—	5,935,000	—	—	246,000	—	—
2009-10	—	4,823,000	—	—	34,000	—	—

	Pensions Ombudsman	*Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman*	*Disability Employment Advisory Committee*	*Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board*	*Equality 2025*	*Industrial Injuries Advisory Council*	*Social Security Advisory Committee*
1997-98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
199-2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2000-01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2001-02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2002-03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003-04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004-05	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005-06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2006-07	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2007-08	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2008-09	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2009-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NDPBs operate individual arrangements and the above figures are for NDPBs excluding the Pensions Protection Fund (PPF). I will let the hon. Member have information on refurbishment spend for PPF for the following: Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, Independent Living Fund, Pension Protection Fund, Personal Accounts Delivery Authority, The Pensions Advisory Service, The Pensions Regulator, Pensions Ombudsman, Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman, Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board, Disability Employment Advisory Committee, Equality 2025, Industrial Injuries Advisory Council and Social Security Advisory Committee as soon as possible.

Departmental Televisions

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7506]

Chris Grayling: The Department's spend (including agencies) on televisions is provided in the following table. Cost information prior to 2006-07 and separating the data between the Department and its agencies could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

	Spend (£)
2006-07	2,264
2007-08	15,368
2008-09	10,016
2009-10	16,374

Spend on televisions by the Department's NDPBs is as follows:

£

	Independent Living Fund	*Personal Accounts Delivery Authority*	*The Pensions Advisory Service*	*The Pensions Regulator*
1997-98	—	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—	—
1999-00	—	—	—	—
2000-01	—	—	—	—
2001-02	—	—	—	—
2002-03	—	—	—	—
2003-04	—	—	—	—
2004-05	—	—	—	—
2005-06	—	—	—	—
2006-07	—	—	700	—

				£
	Independent Living Fund	*Personal Accounts Delivery Authority*	*The Pensions Advisory Service*	*The Pensions Regulator*
2007-08	—	—	—	10,344
2008-09	—	—	—	3,035
2009-10	992	306	—	8,267

Available information for the Pensions Protection Fund will be provided as soon as possible. NDPBs not listed have either not incurred any expenditure or the information is not available.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7337]

Chris Grayling: Table 1 summarises information and communication technology expenditure with external suppliers. Information prior to 2005-06 for the Department, its predecessors and agencies, and prior to 2002-03 for the Health and Safety Executive, can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1

								£ million
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DWP	—	—	—	452	254	201	175	273
JCP	—	—	—	270	513	470	468	483
PDCS	—	—	—	178	214	185	188	170
CSA[1]	—	—	—	135	105	135	—	—
CMEC[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	156	151
Health and Safety Executive[3]	21	22	28	28	26	24	25	25

[1] CSA ceased to operate in 2008-09.

[2] CMEC began operations in 2008-09.

[3] Reported expenditure for the Health and Safety Executive excludes telephony.

Abbreviations:

DWP—Department for Work and Pensions

JCP—Jobcentre Plus (Agency)

PDCS—Pension, Disability and Carers Service (Agency)

CSA—Child Support Agency (Agency)

CMEC—Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (Crown Non Departmental Body)

Notes:

1. Figures for 2009-10 are provisional.
2. The 2009-10 accounts are based on International Financial Reporting Standards. Prior years were prepared on a UK GAAP basis.

Table 2 summarises Non Departmental Public Bodies information and communication technology expenditure with external suppliers. Information prior to 2005-06 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 2

					£ million
Body	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Independent Living Fund[1]	0.279	0.273	0.299	0.475	0.786
Pension Protection Fund[2]	—	1.061	1.312	2.644	3.533
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority[3]	—	—	—	0.114	1.027
Remploy Ltd[4]	2.945	2.753	4.747	3.756	6.989
The Pensions Advisory Service	0.066	0.209	0.418	0.356	0.486
The Pensions Regulator	1.750	2.604	2.432	3.080	2.938
Pensions Ombudsman[5]	—	—	0.216	0.229	0.254
Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman[5]					
Disability Employment Advisory Committee[6]	0	0	0	0	0
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board	0	0	0	0	0
Equality 2025[7]	—	0	0.007	0	0
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2

Body	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£ million* *2009-10*
Social Security Advisory Committee[8]	0	0	0	0.003	0

[1] Source: Independent Living Fund. Figures for external IT costs include: IT Hardware purchase, IT Software Purchases, Hardware additions, Bespoke software additions, Commercial Software additions, IT Technical support, Software licensing, Software Services, Business Continuity, Information security, Website services and Equipment servicing.

[2] 2008-09 includes £0.825 million capital expenditure'2009-10 includes £1.384 million capital expenditure.

[3] Excludes telephone services and telephone equipment received for nil consideration (valued at £10,000).

[4] Data at this level is only available on Remploy accounting systems for the last five years. 2009-10 figures include £2,082,948 ICT spending for FND1. Increases in 2004-05 and 2009-10 reflect IT capital expenditure to upgrade desktop systems and IT hardware including servers.

[5] Both bodies are supported by the same organisation.

[6] DEAC is not supplied with information and communication technology.

[7] Data at this level is only available on Remploy accounting systems for the last five years.

[8] The majority of the SSAC's I&CT is provided by the DWP.

The following bodies were sponsored by the Department and its predecessors during the period for which information is requested. These bodies have either been closed or replaced by a successor body as shown:

Pensions Compensation Board was replaced by the Pension Protection Fund in April 2005;

Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority ceased on 5 April 2005, its work is now done by The Pensions Regulator;

The Appeals Service moved to the Department of Constitutional Affairs (now the Ministry of Justice) on 1 April 2006;

Disability Rights Commissioner was subsumed into the Commission for Equality and Human Rights in September 2007;

National Employment Panel ceased on 31 March 2008. Its functions have been incorporated into the UK Commission for Employment and Skills from 1 April 2008;

Working Ventures UK closed down on 30 September 2009.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7607]

Chris Grayling: Since 1997 the following has been spent on website design:

	Website	*Cost (£000)*
2008-09 and 2009-10	DWP corporate	118.5

The Department's corporate website was redesigned during 2008-09 and 2009-10 as part of a decision that customer-facing content should move to Directgov and employer-facing content to Business Link. The cost shown represents the external design cost for the redesigned website. The Department's own in-house digital media team also worked on the redesign but it is not possible to extract and quantify costs as most staff work across more than one role and website.

	Website	*Cost (£000)*
2007-08	ODI	98

During 2007-08 the Office for Disability Issues ran a project to redesign its website as part of improvement work using customer feedback and research. The cost shown represents the cost of external design work.

Website design costs are not available for previous years for the Department or its predecessors. We are working with Cabinet Office to implement a standardised method for quantifying website costs across the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies in response to recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee. These costs will be available from April 2011 onwards.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7626]

Chris Grayling: In 1998 the Department entered into a 20 year PFI contract for the provision of fully serviced accommodation for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. Building maintenance is one of the services provided and the provision of light bulbs is included within this. The cost of light bulbs cannot be disaggregated from the unitary charge.

For those non-departmental public bodies not covered by the PFI contract, specific information on the spend on light bulbs is not available.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7482]

Chris Grayling: Under the previous Administration, the Department and its agencies spent £2,970 plus VAT in 2009-10 on logo design. Further information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7444]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 from the Department of Social Security (DSS), the Employment Service (ES) and some parts of the Department for Education and Employment (DFEE) and no information is available before that time.

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Total (£)
2001-02	155,000
2002-03	259,997
2003-04	135,567
2004-05	91,259
2005-06	133,979
2006-07	196,892
2007-08	90,267
2008-09	116,652
200-10[1]	24,544

[1] Figures for 2009-10 are provisional.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [10001]

Chris Grayling: The overall remuneration for civil servants working within the Department is published as an annex in the Resource Accounts. The Resource Accounts for 2009-10 are not due to be laid before Parliament until 26 July 2010. Until the report has been agreed the figures contained may still be subject to change therefore I am unable to provide validated figures at this time.

A copy of the Resource Accounts will be placed in the Library on publication.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7374]

Chris Grayling: In 1998 the Department entered into a 20 year PFI contract for the provision of fully serviced accommodation for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. Security is one of the services provided but the cost of it cannot be disaggregated from the unitary charge.

In addition customer care officers are employed at many Jobcentre Plus offices and one element of their role is security related. The cost of the security element cannot be disaggregated from the overall cost.

Security costs for NDPBs not covered by the PFI contract are as follows:

£

	Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	*Health and Safety Executive*	*Independent Living Fund*	*Pension Protection Fund*	*Personal Accounts Delivery Authority*	*The Pensions Advisory Service*	*The Pensions Regulator*
1997-98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1999-2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2000-01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2001-02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2002-03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003-04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004-05	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005-06	—	604,590	—	—	—	—	—
2006-07	—	963,403	—	—	—	—	—
2007-08	—	1,187,156	—	—	—	—	52,470
2008-09	—	1,254,855	—	—	103,000	—	57,691
2009-10	—	1,039,842	—	—	116,000	—	58,853

	Pensions Ombudsman	*Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman*	*Disability Employment Advisory Committee*	*Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board*	*Equality 2025*	*Industrial Injuries Advisory Council*	*Social Security Advisory Committee*
1997-98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1999-2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2000-01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2001-02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2002-03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003-04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004-05	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005-06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2006-07	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Pensions Ombudsman	*Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman*	*Disability Employment Advisory Committee*	*Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board*	*Equality 2025*	*Industrial Injuries Advisory Council*	*Social Security Advisory Committee*
2007-08	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2008-09	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2009-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

In relation to security of data, the information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7463]

Chris Grayling: The Department including the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission has spent the following on stationery (i.e. desk top items, computer consumables and cut sheet paper):

May 2008 - March 2009 = £14,139,461

April 2009 - March 2010 = £16,505,496

April 2010 - June 2010 = £3,080,678

Prior to May 2008 spend was through a variety of commercial contracts and details can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The following table details stationery spend for non departmental public bodies and arms length bodies associated with DWP:

£

Body	*1997-2004*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Health and Safety Executive	—	458,885	377,358	302,746	291,668	334,920	292,820
Independent Living Fund	—	—	32,120	36,863	46,401	52,407	58,310
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority	—	—	—	—	4,000	49,000	84,000
Remploy Ltd	—	700,099	596,613	613,796	737,467	617,081	715,765
The Pensions Advisory Service	—	8,242	7,718	12,413	9,898	10,574	13,079
The Pensions Regulator	—	—	279,609	142,062	134,477	126,371	152,302
The Pensions Ombudsman / Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disability Employment Advisory Committee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Equality 2025	—	—	—	34	307	186	319
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council	—		—	—	—	—	—
Social Security Advisory Committee	—	—	—	—	3,240	2,834	6,407

The following bodies were sponsored by the Department and its predecessors during the period for which information is requested. These bodies have either been closed or replaced by a successor body as shown:

Pensions Compensation Board was replaced by the Pension Protection Fund in April 2005;

Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority ceased on 5 April 2005, its work is now done by The Pensions Regulator;

The Appeals Service moved to the Department of Constitutional Affairs (now the Ministry of Justice) on 1 April 2006;

Disability Rights Commissioner was subsumed into the Commission for Equality and Human Rights in September 2007;

National Employment Panel ceased on 31 March 2008. Its functions have been incorporated into the UK Commission for Employment and Skills from 1 April 2008;

Working Ventures UK closed down on 30 September 2009.

NDPBs operate individual arrangements and I will let the hon. Member have information in relation to spend on stationery for the Pension Protection Fund as soon as possible.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997. [7318]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies does not have a separate or identifiable account code in departmental finance records to distinguish expenditure on staff away days. Details of such expenditure could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Spending on staff away days is incurred in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which is based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee training in each year since 1997. [7648]

Chris Grayling: Until 2006-07 the Department and its Agencies did not report training expenditure separately.

Annual expenditure for subsequent years is as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	64.5
2007-08	65.0
2008-09	62.0
2009-10	73.0

The figures shown include expenditure for the Department and its Agencies as follows:

2006-07: DWP, Jobcentre Plus, Pension Service, Disability and Carers Service and Child Support Agency

2007-08: DWP, Jobcentre Plus, Pension Service, Disability and Carers Service Child Support Agency

2008-09: DWP, Jobcentre Plus, Pension Disability and Carers Service

2009-10: DWP, Jobcentre Plus, Pension Disability and Carers Service

No data is available for the Rent Service, the Health and Safety Executive, Directgov and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. Increased expenditure in 2009-10 was largely due to the need to provide training to some 16,000 additional staff recruited by Jobcentre Plus to manage increased workloads caused by the economic downturn.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7425]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions has spent the following on business travel, inclusive of air, rail, ferry, hotels, conference venues, vehicles, car parking, taxis and coach travel invoices by various suppliers:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2005-06	40.6
2006-07	56.2
2007-08	49.8
2008-09	63.5
2009-10	67.1

Please note no figures are available prior to 2005-06, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The figures above exclude reimbursement of staff expense claims related to travel.

Travel spend for non-departmental public bodies and arms length bodies are as follows:

							£000
Body	*1997-2004*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	—	—	—	—	—	7,500	4,000
Health and Safety Executive	—	6,877	7,532	7,027	6,040	7,096	7,594
Independent Living Fund	—	—	—	—	15	28	50
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority	—	—	—	—	18	378	332
The Pensions Advisory Service	—	15	28	35	27	36	26
The Pensions Regulator	—	—	198	228	201	171	237
Pensions Ombudsman	—	—	—	—	7	6	6
Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman	—	—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Disability Employment Advisory Committee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Indicates a brace.

The following bodies were sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions and its predecessors during the period for which information is requested. These bodies have either been closed or replaced by a successor body shown as follows:

Pensions Compensation Board was replaced by the Pension Protection Fund in April 2005;

Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority ceased on 5 April 2005, its work is now done by the Pensions Regulator;

The Appeals Service moved to the Department of Constitutional Affairs (now the Ministry of Justice) on 1 April 2006;

Disability Rights Commissioner was subsumed into the Commission for Equality and Human Rights in September 2007;

National Employment Panel ceased on 31 March 2008. Its functions have been incorporated into the UK Commission for Employment and Skills from 1 April 2008;

Working Ventures UK closed down on 30 September 2009.

I will let the hon. Member have information in relation to the Pensions Protection Fund as soon as possible.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7989]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer which I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 70W.

DWP Ministers and the Permanent Secretary make use of the Government Car Service within the normal rules set out in the Ministerial Code and the Department's rules on official travel. Other senior officials may use the Government Car Service from time to time for official travel in accordance with departmental rules. Details of other expenditure on official travel senior officials, is published on a quarterly basis.

I used the Department's contracted taxi service, Addison Lee, for an official journey on 19 May when no Government car was available. The charge to the Department, including VAT, was £64.33. Information relating to June is not yet available.

In addition I have a £10.00 Oyster card purchased for official journeys by public transport.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7588]

Chris Grayling: The following table gives cost details of utilities and telephone services for the Department (including its agencies, and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission), since its first full operational year in 2001-02, and for its predecessors.

Utilities (electricity, water, heating) cost information for the former Department of Social Security and the former Employment Service for 1998-99 and previous years is no longer maintained centrally. Cost data for water prior to 2001-02, and telephone service information prior to 2005-06 are also unavailable.

Telephony costs are for DWP and all its agencies and covers all telephony services, and advanced telephony, contact centre telephony, IP telephony, data services, equipment room management, cable management, video conferencing and mobile phones.

£000

—	*(i) Electricity*	*(ii) Water*	*(iii) Heating*		*(iv) Telephone services*
			Gas	*Oil*	
1998-99	—	—	—	—	—
1999-2000	12,679	—	3,170	439	—
2000-01	10,875	—	3,663	555	—
2001-02	12,658	1,476	3,323	416	—
2002-03	13,869	1,404	4,764	418	—
2003-04	15,076	1,333	4,932	410	—
2004-05	17,343	1,266	6,614	545	—
2005-06	20,868	1,204	8,192	564	210,000
2006-07	24,409	1,243	7,853	413	236,000
2007-08	22,576	1,286	6,299	484	213,000
2008-09	27,631	1,255	8,374	472	210,000
2009-10	21,431	1,282	6,330	362	199,000

The following table provides information for the Health and Safety Executive (including the Health and Safety laboratory) since the beginning of DWP's sponsorship in 2002-03.

£000

	(i) Electricity	*(ii) Water*	*(iii) Heating*	*(iv) Telephone services*
2002-03	782	270	303	1,316
2003-04	815	276	276	1,078
2004-05	1,063	316	387	1,115
2005-06	1,308	338	508	953
2006-07	1,707	401	643	873
2007-08	1,580	310	474	911
2008-09	2,039	221	708	1,047
2009-10	2,106	112	537	1,209

The following table provides information for The Pensions Regulator—information is only available for the past five years.

	(i) Electricity	(ii) Water	(iii) Heating	(iv) Telephone services
				£000
2005-06	65	11	18	112
2006-07	131	28	29	117
2007-08	131	2	2	93
2008-09	146	13	15	87
2009-10	157	23	5	92

The following table provides information on costs for utilities for PADA—the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority—since 2007-08.

	(i) Electricity	(ii) Water	(iii) Heating	(iv) Telephone services
				£000
2007-08	9	1	2	6
2008-09	109	12	25	76
2009-10	118	20	37	117

The following table provides information on costs for telephone services attributable directly to the NDPBs listed. Costs for electricity, water and heating are included within the overall figures for DWP (as they are based as minor occupiers of main DWP buildings).

	Equality 2025	Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman	The Pensions Advisory Service	Independent Living Fund
				£
2004-05	—	—	31,326	—
2005-06	—	—	30,616	17,860
2006-07	39		37,331	17,309
2007-08	723	15,162	28,659	10,580
2008-09	862	12,439	35,417	25,257
2009-10	772	10,084	72,145	28,330

I will let the hon. Member have information on the utilities and telephony service costs for the Pensions Protection Fund as soon as possible.

Disability Living Allowance

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing his proposal to introduce a medical assessment for the disability living allowance; [8647]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of assessing eligibility for disability living allowance on the basis of a medical assessment; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the current form-based system. [8648]

Maria Miller: The emergency Budget made the commitment to reform disability living allowance to ensure it supports those people who are most in need and remains financially sustainable. As part of these reforms, we will introduce a more objective assessment from 2013-14, and will consider carefully how this could improve the existing process for customers and the impact on administrative costs.

With reference to the cost of administering the current disability living allowance system, such information that is available is presented in the following.

	2009-10 March YTD expenditure (£ million)
Disability living allowance claims	142.1
Disability living allowance—maintenance of existing claims	21.4
Total disability living allowance	163.4

Notes:
1. The table of costs for DLA includes the total costs for administering DLA new claims and maintenance of existing claims, including any share of the corporate DWP costs.
2. The costs include any further requests for medical evidence, including from GPs or from the contracted medical services provider.
3. Figures are rounded to one decimal point.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions—Activity Based Management System—PDCS Management Information Statistics

Disability Living Allowance: Fraud

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* incorrect payments relating to disability living allowance in each of the last 10 years. [8750]

Chris Grayling: Consistent figures for overpayments due to fraud and error on disability living allowance are only available from 2004-05.

The information is shown in the following table.

Estimated overpayments due to fraud and error on disability living allowance: From 2004-05 to 2009-10

	Fraud	Customer error	Official error
			£ million
2004-05	40	50	60
2005-06	40	50	70
2006-07	40	60	70
2007-08	50	60	80

Estimated overpayments due to fraud and error on disability living allowance: From 2004-05 to 2009-10

			£ million
	Fraud	*Customer error*	*Official error*
2008-09	50	70	80
2009-10[1]	60	70	90

[1] Preliminary estimates.

Note:

Estimates are rounded to the nearest £10 million.

Source:

National Statistics: Fraud and Error in the Benefit System (various publications)

Employers' Liability

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the response to the Government's consultation on the establishment of an employers' liability insurance bureau. [11189]

Chris Grayling: The public consultation closed on 5 May 2010. We are currently considering the replies we received and we will publish our response to the consultation in due course.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to establish an employers' liability insurance bureau. [11278]

Chris Grayling: An employers' liability insurance bureau is one of the options set out in the DWP consultation document, 'Accessing Compensation—Supporting people who need to trace Employers' Liability Insurance'. We are currently considering all of the replies we received to the consultation, and we will publish our response in due course.

Employment Schemes

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to increase his Department's assistance for British citizens whose first language is not English to find employment. [10245]

Chris Grayling: For those seeking work, Jobcentre Plus can direct those where poor English language skills are a barrier to employment to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision through the Employability Skills Programme (ESP), where customers are referred to further education providers for further in-depth assessment and training if appropriate.

As we move to implement the new Work Programme, the effectiveness of the different ESOL models employed by providers will offer valuable lessons and help to shape future ESOL provision.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist people who wish to move from part-time to full-time employment. [10842]

Chris Grayling: The Government's objective is to encourage a dynamic and flexible labour market in which more people can find employment, whether full or part-time, that meets their particular needs and circumstances. Key to this will be the measures set out in the Budget to secure a sustained, private sector-led, recovery in the economy and employment, through tackling the deficit, improving competitiveness and supporting business by cutting regulation and taxes. The Government are also exploring ways to ensure that people on benefit keep more of their earnings when they move into work or increase the hours they work.

In addition, the Next Step service (our new universal integrated adult careers service which starts from August) will offer advice to individuals on how to progress in their careers. This would include helping them overcome barriers to working full-time, such as accessing child care, or where their skills were a barrier to gaining full-time work, how they could get the necessary skills through training or development activities.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he plans to take to assist people who are on benefits back into employment; [11018]

(2) what steps he plans to take to assist long-term unemployed people back into employment. [11019]

Chris Grayling: We have announced plans for radical reforms of the welfare to work system and the implementation of the Work Programme. The Work Programme will be an integrated package of support providing people with personalised back-to-work help based on need and not the benefit they claim. No final decisions have been taken on which customers will be supported by the Work Programme but we expect long-term unemployed people to be among those eligible.

We are also looking to make radical changes to the benefit system to make it much simpler, and to make the financial gains from moving into work stronger and more transparent.

We are determined to move quickly and are aiming to have the Work Programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. Alongside the core Work Programme a series of individual support measures will be introduced to get Britain working, including work clubs and help with moving into self-employment.

Employment: Wales

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to place jobseekers in employment in *(a)* Clwyd South and *(b)* Wales. [8663]

Chris Grayling: The Government have announced their plans for radical reforms of the welfare to work system and the implementation of the Work Programme. The Work Programme will be an integrated package of support providing personalised help for people on out of work benefits, based on need rather than benefit claimed.

Once implemented, the Work Programme will supersede much of the complicated raft of national programmes currently on offer and these will be phased out. The support currently provided by programmes such as flexible new deal will be folded into the Work Programme as soon as possible.

The core Work Programme will be delivered by contractors drawn from the private, public and voluntary sectors, as well as social enterprises. We will offer these providers stronger incentives to work with the harder to help, paying them out of the additional benefits they realise as a result of placing people into work.

The scope and shape of the Work Programme, including details such as when customers move to the Work Programme, is still under discussion but we expect that the majority of benefit claimants will be able to access the Work Programme at some stage in their claim. We will make further announcements in due course.

We are determined to move quickly and are aiming to have the Work Programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. We will announce further details to the design and implementation as the Work Programme progresses.

Alongside the core Work Programme, a series of individual support measures will be introduced to get Britain working such as:

Work for Yourself, giving access to business mentors and start-up loans;

work clubs, to give unemployed people a place to share skills and experiences;

service academies, which will offer specialised pre-employment training and work placements; and

Work Together, to encourage and facilitate volunteering.

Further support is also being planned for young people, including work experience opportunities with small businesses and sole traders, more apprenticeships and more further education places.

Until the Work Programme is implemented, the Government will ensure appropriate support is in place.

Employment: Young People

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to provide *(a)* training and *(b)* employment opportunities for young people unemployed for more than six months in the west midlands. [10071]

Chris Grayling: The Government have announced plans for the radical reform of the welfare to work system, and for the introduction of the Work Programme. The Work Programme will be an integrated package of support providing personalised help for people who find themselves out of work, based on need and not benefit claimed. The final shape and scope of the Work Programme has not yet been decided, but we expect that many young people will receive support through it at some stage in their benefit claim.

We aim to have the Work Programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. Until the Work Programme is implemented, the Government will ensure support is in place.

We are also planning further support for young people, including intensive work experience, more apprenticeships and more further education places.

Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department expects to begin data-sharing with energy suppliers. [6948]

Steve Webb: The energy rebate scheme will deliver a one off £80 rebate this year on electricity bills to eligible persons.

The Department for Work and Pensions has carried out a data matching exercise to help the six major electricity suppliers identify which of their customers belong to the group of eligible people, so that they may receive a rebate on their electricity account.

A person will be eligible for a rebate if, on 26 March 2010, they or their partner were aged 70 or over and receiving the guarantee credit element of pension credit (not the savings credit) and were responsible for paying the electricity bill where they live and were not on a social or discounted tariff from their electricity supplier.

Electricity suppliers are currently adding the rebate to customers' accounts.

Funerals: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average monetary value of funeral payments made to applicants in *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough has been since 2005. [9698]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 275W.

Future Jobs Fund

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on which date his Department's evaluation of the Future Jobs Fund was commissioned; [10710]

(2) how many officials of his Department are employed in the evaluation of the Future Jobs Fund; and what the budget for the evaluation is. [10716]

Chris Grayling: We are currently planning an evaluation strategy for Young Person's Guarantee. This is likely to include qualitative research and estimates of impact of the programme. The evaluation will be commissioned in due course.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bids his Department has received for assistance under the Future Jobs Fund since 24 May 2010. [10715]

Chris Grayling: The Department has received one bid since 24 May 2010.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 161W, on the Future Jobs Fund, if he will take steps to collect information on the Future Jobs Fund at constituency level. [10822]

Chris Grayling: The constituency data have not been collected as they are not essential to the smooth running or evaluation of the Future Jobs Fund. As such this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. We are currently considering alternative data sources which may allow constituency level breakdowns subject to data quality and large enough volumes.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have secured

Future Jobs Fund employment in *(a)* Perth and Kinross local authority area, *(b)* Clackmannanshire and *(c)* Ochil and South Perthshire. [11356]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010 to the hon. Member for Glasgow South West, *Official Report*, column 278W, on the Future Jobs Fund, what representations he has received on his proposals for the Future Jobs Fund since the date of that answer. [11446]

Chris Grayling: Since 14 June I have not received a significant number of representations to continue the Future Jobs Fund.

Future Jobs Fund: Scotland

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of dependants participants in the Future Jobs Fund in Scotland have; and if he will make a statement. [8909]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available. No information is kept on the dependants of people who obtain jobs through funding from the Future Jobs Fund.

Housing Benefit

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of proposed changes to housing benefit on homelessness in Sunderland. [7921]

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made an assessment of the likely effects of reductions in levels of housing benefit on the incidence of homelessness levels in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [7948]

Steve Webb: We are working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations to assess the impacts of the proposed changes to housing benefit, including looking at ways to minimise any risk of adverse impacts on local authorities' homelessness prevention strategies.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in City of Durham constituency in households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [8464]

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [9795]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. The Department for Work and Pensions does not collect information on dwelling size for all housing benefit recipients.

The English Housing Survey in 2008-09 showed that 258,000 (6.7%) of all social rented households and 164,000 (5.4%) of all private rented households in England were over-occupied as measured by the bedroom standard.

The "bedroom standard" is essentially the difference between the number of bedrooms needed to avoid undesirable sharing (given the number and ages of household members and their relationships to each other) and the number of bedrooms actually available to the household.

Source:

Figures on over-occupation are taken from 'Table 6: Overcrowding and under-occupation by tenure' from the English Housing Survey, 2008-09

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of housing benefit recipients in *(a)* England and *(b)* Doncaster receive a higher sum in benefit payments than the level of rent they pay; and what estimate he has made of the average level of excess weekly benefit received by such people in the latest period for which figures are available. [9207]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at sub-national level.

In August 2009 in Great Britain, among customers receiving housing benefit under the local housing allowance arrangements, 44% had an excess of £11 per week on average. This relates to excesses caused by a customer's contractual rent being lower than the appropriate local housing allowance rate.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families are living in properties where housing benefit payments exceed *(a)* £1,000 per week and *(b)* £2,000 per week in (i) the London borough of Camden, (ii) the London borough of Brent, (iii) the Greater London area and (iv) the UK. [10201]

Steve Webb: At April 2010, for all families in receipt of housing benefit, living in properties in both the private and social rented sectors, our records show that:

In the London borough of Camden, there were:

Fewer than five customers in receipt of housing benefit over £1,000 per week; and no customers in receipt of housing benefit over £2,000 per week.

In the London borough of Brent, there were:

No customers in receipt of housing benefit over £1,000 per week; and no customers in receipt of housing benefit over £2,000 per week.

In the Greater London area, there were:

90 customers in receipt of housing benefit over £1,000 per week; and no customers in receipt of housing benefit over £2,000 per week.

In the UK, there were:

90 customers in receipt of housing benefit over £1,000 per week; and no customers in receipt of housing benefit over £2,000 per week.

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector organisations were consulted on proposed reductions to housing benefit before those proposals were announced. [10248]

Steve Webb: The Department has not consulted on these specific changes although it has consulted on proposals to reform the housing benefit system to make it fairer, more affordable, and to improve work incentives. The consultation commenced on 15 December 2009 and concluded on 22 February 2010. 381 responses were received to the consultation.

Of these respondents, 147 were public sector organisations (central and local government or parliamentary bodies) and 208 were from private rented sector organisations or individuals.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Moray constituency received housing benefit overpayments between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and how much on average was required to be paid back. [10443]

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency received housing benefit overpayments between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10522]

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Angus constituency received housing benefit overpayments between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10527]

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Dundee East constituency received housing benefit overpayments between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10530]

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Perth and North Perthshire constituency received housing benefit overpayments between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10537]

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Banff and Buchan constituency received housing benefit overpayments between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10541]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

Housing Benefit: Disability

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of his proposals for housing benefit reform on people with disabilities. [10273]

Steve Webb: We published an impact assessment for the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates on 23 July 2010.

We are developing the detailed policy design of the other housing benefit changes announced in the Budget. We shall publish impact assessments to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament and are investigating the scope for publishing sooner.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency. [10031]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [10042]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. The Department for Work and Pensions does not collect information on dwelling size for all housing benefit recipients.

The English Housing Survey in 2008-09 showed that 258,000 (6.7%) of all social rented households and 164,000 (5.4%) of all private rented households in England were over-occupied as measured by the bedroom standard.

The "bedroom standard" is essentially the difference between the number of bedrooms needed to avoid undesirable sharing (given the number and ages of household members and their relationships to each other) and the number of bedrooms actually available to the household.

Source:

Figures on over-occupation are taken from Table 6: Overcrowding and under-occupation by tenure from the English Housing Survey, 2008-09.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate has been made of the impact of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect on new build in the social sector. [10043]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for West Lancashire, (Rosie Cooper), on 8 July, *Official Report*, columns 435-437W.

Housing Benefit: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* unemployed people of working age, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants resident in Liverpool, Wavertree constituency are in receipt of housing benefit. [9783]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

The available information on housing benefit recipients is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_jul10.xls

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Housing Benefit: Worcestershire

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals resident in West Worcestershire and in receipt of housing benefits *(a)* are on the housing waiting list for accommodation with more bedrooms than their current accommodation and *(b)* occupy accommodation with more bedrooms than residents. [4449]

Steve Webb: Information on housing waiting lists and occupancy rates in West Worcestershire is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Incapacity Benefit: Scotland

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance in Scotland at the end of (i) 2010, (ii) 2011, (iii) 2012 and (iv) 2013. [8908]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available: DWP only forecasts claimant numbers for Great Britain, and not at devolved Administration or regional level.

Industrial Health and Safety: Death

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the probability of a person being killed at work. [10442]

Chris Grayling: The provisional figure for the number of workers fatally injured in the workplace in 2009-10 is 151, which is a record low. This equates to a probability of 0.000005.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths there were of members of the public from workplace accidents in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10. [10514]

Chris Grayling: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995 place a legal duty on employers and duty holders to report fatal injuries to members of the public that are killed as a result of an accident that is connected to a work activity, i.e. the deceased person was not at work themselves. The reports are made to the relevant enforcing authority: HSE, local authorities, and the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR).

The following table provides the figures from RIDDOR regarding fatal injuries to members of the public for the period 2005-06 to 2009-10. On average about three-quarters of such incidents in each of the last five years relate to deaths resulting from suicides and trespass on railways that are reported to ORR. These figures have remained reasonably constant since the requirement to report such incidents was introduced under RIDDOR '95 in 1996-97.

Fatal injuries to members of the public reported to all enforcing authorities under RIDDOR, 2005-06 to 2009/10[1]

	Fatal injuries reported to HSE and local authorities	*Suicides/trespass reported to ORR*	*Other fatal injuries reported to ORR*	*Total number of fatal injuries*
2005-06	85	283	33	401
2006-07	88	298	29	415
2007-08	70	279	22	371
2008-09	101	298	26	425
2009-10[1]	70	306	17	393

[1] Provisional.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths from occupational illnesses there were in each year from 1997 to 2009. [10517]

Chris Grayling: No single source of information provides a count of the total number of people that have died each year from an occupational illness. For some causes of death, occupational cases are clinically indistinguishable from those due to other factors. For these causes numbers have to be estimated rather than counted, and year-on-year figures are not available.

Research commissioned by HSE—the Health and Safety Executive—estimates that 8,019 cancer deaths in Great Britain in 2005 were attributable to exposures to carcinogens at work, and it is likely that a similar number would have occurred in each of the other years from 1997. This estimate includes deaths from the asbestos related cancer mesothelioma.

Using other international research, it is also estimated that there are currently approximately 4,000 deaths in Great Britain each year from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) due to past occupational exposures to dusts, gases, vapours and fumes. Again, it is likely that a similar number would have occurred in each of the other years from 1997.

Numbers of deaths each year in Great Britain from 1997 to 2007 (the latest year for which data are available) due to the small group of diseases that can be regarded as occupational on the basis of the cause of death alone are provided in the following table.

Most of the occupational diseases that cause death usually take many years to develop following occupational exposures. Estimates of current deaths therefore largely reflect past industrial conditions.

Deaths due to occupational lung diseases, 1997 to 2007

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Mesothelioma[1]	1,367	1,541	1,615	1,633	1,861	1,867	1,887	1,978	2,046	[2]2,058	[2]2,156
Asbestosis[3]	191	165	171	186	233	234	235	268	301	[2]327	[2]314
Pneumoconiosis other than asbestosis	230	268	321	279	240	271	231	214	194	167	149
Byssinosis	5	5	6	4	2	0	3	4	3	5	2
Farmer's lung and other occupational allergic alveolitis 5	5	8	9	7	7	6	7	5	13	10	5
Total	1,798	1,987	2,122	2,109	2,343	2,378	2,363	2,469	2,557	2,567	2,626

[1] Death certificates that mention mesothelioma.

[2] Provisional.

[3] Death certificates that mention asbestosis excluding those that also mention mesothelioma.

Industrial Injuries

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* major accidents and *(c)* major injuries were reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 in (i) Wansbeck constituency, (ii) Northumberland and (iii) the UK in the last 12 months. [10211]

Chris Grayling: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995 places a legal duty on employers and duty holders to report fatal and defined major injuries arising from work activity. There is no legal requirement under RIDDOR for the reporting of major accidents. The data collected under RIDDOR for non-fatal injuries are subject to the drawback that there is considerable underreporting.

It is not possible to accurately identify incidents reported under RIDDOR within parliamentary boundaries. Injury notifications received under RIDDOR are routinely allocated to the local authority (LA) administrative boundary of where the incident occurred. Statistics that HSE produce on a geographic basis are thus based according to this allocation, and not by parliamentary constituency.

The only way to identify incidents by parliamentary constituency is via the postcode of where the incident happened; unfortunately, data may not be fully accurate at such level of detail. An examination of those records within the constituency of Wansbeck where a valid postcode exists shows that, in general, about 75% are within the former LA of Wansbeck and 25% within the former LA of Castle Morpeth.

The most recent full-year for which geographical figures are available from RIDDOR for fatal injuries and reported major injuries is 2008-09. The following table provides the figures within the former local authorities of Wansbeck and Castle Morpeth, the county of Northumberland, and Great Britain.

Fatal injuries to workers and members of the public, and reported major injuries to workers, 2008-09[1]

	Wansbeck	*Castle Morpeth*	*Northumberland*	*Great Britain*
Fatal injuries to workers and members of the public	—	—	3	595
Non-fatal major injuries to workers	20	34	162	28 692

[1] Provisional

Industrial Injuries: Deaths

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many workplace fatalities there have been in each year since 2006. [11232]

Chris Grayling: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995 places a legal duty on employers and duty holders to report all fatal injuries arising out of or in connection with work. The reports are made to the relevant enforcing authority; HSE, local authorities, and the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR).

The following table provides the figures from RIDDOR for the period 2005-06 to 2009-10. On average about three-quarters of fatal injuries to members of the public in each of the last five years relate to deaths resulting from suicides and trespass on railways that are reported to ORR. These figures have remained reasonably constant since the requirement to report such incidents was introduced under RIDDOR 1995 in 1996-97.

Fatal injuries reported to all enforcing authorities under RIDDOR, 2005-06 to 2009-10

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Workers[2]	217	247	233	178	151
Members of the public	401	415	371	425	393
Total fatalities	618	662	604	603	544

[1] Provisional.

[2] The term 'workers' includes employees and the self-employed combined.

Local Housing Allowance: Greater London

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in Hornchurch and Upminster constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average amount of reduction per week for such a tenant in each of those years. [9988]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for West Lancashire (Rosie Cooper) on 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 519-20W.

Lone Parents

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government's proposals for requiring lone parents to seek work when their youngest child reaches school age will apply to parents of children with disabilities. [10252]

Maria Miller: We recognise the difficulties that lone parents caring for disabled children may encounter if they were required to seek work.

Regulations provide that lone parents on income support with a child aged seven to 15 who have a child receiving the middle or higher care component of disability living allowance are exempt from the lone parent changes and are not required to claim jobseeker's allowance or seek work.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to respond to the letter of 16 June 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay on his constituent Mr D. Randall. [11342]

Steve Webb: As the issues raised are for my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the hon. Member's letter has been passed to HM Treasury for reply. I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Mesothelioma: Death

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths from mesothelioma there have been in Mid Dorset and North Poole constituency in the last five years. [10422]

Chris Grayling: The total number of mesothelioma deaths where the last residence of the deceased is recorded as being within the parliamentary constituency of Mid Dorset and North Poole between 2003 and 2007 (the latest year for which data are available) is 15.

Source:
HSE, British Mesothelioma Register.

Occupational Pensions

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to help reinvigorate occupational pensions and to encourage companies to offer high-quality pensions to all their employees; and if he will make a statement. [10840]

Steve Webb: We plan to reinvigorate pension saving by introducing automatic enrolment into work place pensions from 2012. We have initiated a thorough and speedy review of auto-enrolment to make sure we get the details right. In addition, we shall take suitable opportunities to simplify the rules and regulations relating to pensions, as promised in the coalition agreement.

Pension Service

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases were raised with the Pensions Service by each hon. Member between May 2005 and May 2010. [3269]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table. The table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The information available covers the period 1 October 2009 to 31 May 2010.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of pensioner poverty in Bexleyheath and Crayford. [6236]

Steve Webb: We will restore the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011, with a 'triple guarantee' that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%. In 2011, if the basic state pension is increased by more than earnings under the triple guarantee we intend that, as a minimum, all single pension credit recipients will benefit from the full cash value of this increase.

We will also protect key benefits for older people such as the winter fuel payment, free television licences, free bus travel, and free eye tests and prescriptions.

We want to ensure that older people receive the help that they are entitled to. We aim to simplify the benefit system and as a first step we will be looking to conduct a research study into the feasibility of using existing data to help to improve the take-up of pension credit.

We will help prevent people from falling into poverty in later life by simplifying the rules and regulations relating to pensions to help reinvigorate occupational pensions. We will encourage companies to offer high-quality pensions to all employees and will work with businesses and the industry to support auto enrolment.

Pensions: Consumer Price Index

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the use of the consumer price index to calculate final salary pensions. [10795]

Steve Webb: I would refer the hon. Member to my answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 118W.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were in receipt of the Sure Start maternity grant for a second child in *(a)* Stockport and *(b)* Tameside in the latest year for which figures are available. [4998]

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure State maternity grants were made to mothers for their second or subsequent child in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency in 2009-10. [5232]

Steve Webb: A total of 274,000 Sure Start maternity grants were awarded in Great Britain in 2009-10. The exact number of awards for a second or subsequent maternity is not available, but is estimated to be 52% of all awards, around 143,000.

The number of awards made in 2009-10 is available by Government Office Region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area only, not by local authority or constituency.

Note:

Both numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source for total number of awards:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Peterborough constituency receive *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance. [11293]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and employment support allowance claimants in Peterborough parliamentary constituency: November 2009

	Number
IB/SDA	4,540
ESA	980

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

4. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

Source: DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

State Retirement Pensions

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on pensioners of his Department's recent decision to link state pensions to earnings. [7232]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 257W.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the level of the basic state pension under the Government's triple guarantee in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [8121]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 257W.

Vocational Guidance

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist education leavers to obtain work. [9567]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 11, to my hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, Southgate (Mr Burrowes).

Wearside First Credit

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the funding provided by his Department to Wearside First Credit Union will be renewed after October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [10437]

Steve Webb: Wearside First Credit Union has a growth fund contract with the Department for Work and Pensions that is due to end on 31 March 2011. There are no current plans to change this arrangement.

Work Capability Assessment: Autism

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of the work capability assessment (WCA) for people with autism and *(b)* the effects of implementation of the proposals in the recent internal review of WCA on people with autism. [11489]

Chris Grayling: The WCA is function-based rather than condition-based. The medical assessment is based on the severity of functional limitation caused by a condition; not on the basis of the condition itself, because different people may be affected in different ways by the same condition.

The WCA was developed in close consultation with experts and specialist disability groups, including the National Autistic Society. The National Autistic Society was also involved in a recent department-led review of the operation of the WCA, on whose recommendation we are implementing changes to the WCA. As part of the review, experts analysed a randomly chosen sample of cases, covering a wide range of conditions.

The review reported in March 2010 and concluded that, generally, the WCA is accurately identifying individuals for the correct benefit.

Their conclusions and recommendations were based on expert analysis of a range of cases, considering the impact of revising the descriptors. The main effect of these changes is to take greater account of the way in which individuals use aids of adaptation to mitigate the functional effects of a health condition or disability.

The changes will also widen the support group for individuals with certain communication problems and severe disability due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder.

TRANSPORT

Accidents: Finance

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding has been allocated by his Department for in-depth accident investigation studies in 2010-11. [10834]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department for Transport has three dedicated accident investigation branches for air, maritime and rail safety incidents.

Each of these branches exist solely for the purposes of accident investigations within their respective transport modes and therefore their entire 10-11 budget (which includes pay costs for staff, office running costs and capital investment costs) is £18.338 million is allocated for these purposes.

In addition, the Department plays a major role in reporting on road accident investigations. There is no central Department for Transport funding allocated to in-depth road accident investigations in 2010-11. However all fatal accidents are investigated by specialist police accident investigators.

Barking-Gospel Oak Railway Line: Electrification

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to the inclusion of the Barking to Gospel Oak line in the railway electrification programme; and if he will make a statement. [9770]

Mrs Villiers: This scheme was one of a number assessed in Network Rail's Network Route Utilisation Strategy concerning electrification which was published in October 2009. This can be found at:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browseDirectory.aspx?dir=\RUS%20Documents\Route%20Utilisation%20Strategies\Network\Working%20Group%204%20-%20Electrification%20Strategy&pageid=4449&root=\RUS%20Documents\Route%20Utilisation%20Strategies

Government support rail electrification as it helps to reduce carbon emission and cut running costs. It is keeping the case for further electrification under review subject to rolling stock considerations, value for money and affordability. However, our priority is tackling the fiscal deficit and Ministers will consider the full range of proposed transport projects in parallel with the spending review process to ascertain what is affordable.

Biofuels

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the contribution to the Government's environmental objectives of waste-derived biofuels produced using recycled methanol. [10391]

Norman Baker: The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) collects information on the origins and sustainable performance of biofuels supplied under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). Currently methanol is used in the UK in the production process for Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) Biodiesel. However the RFA does not hold information on the proportion of this methanol that is recycled.

More generally, work within Government is looking at the potential renewable energy production and greenhouse gas consequences derived from treating a variety of waste streams with different technologies. This includes the production of transport fuels from waste.

Blue Badge Scheme

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on alleged *(a)* abuse and *(b)* misuse of the Blue Badge scheme for disabled drivers. [10065]

Norman Baker: The previous Government published a consultation document on 22 March 2010 that proposed detailed amendments to legislation to tackle abuse and deal with misuse. The Department for Transport has received 240 responses to the consultation from local authorities, members of the public, and groups representing disabled people and parking enforcement agencies. We are presently analysing the responses to the consultation exercise before deciding how to take matters forward. The Department has also received correspondence from members of the public who are concerned about misuse and I have met with the chair of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee to discuss these issues.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many blue badges were issued by each local authority in *(a)* 1996-97, *(b)* 2001-02, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2008-09. [10066]

Norman Baker: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Bus Services: Concessions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* senior officials in his Department have had discussions with Ministers or officials of the Treasury on savings to be derived from the concessionary local bus travel scheme. [10574]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* A number of discussions have taken place between senior officials and Ministers of the Department for Transport and HM Treasury in respect of the spending review about all areas of the Department's spending.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on the provision of free travel for pensioners. [11000]

Norman Baker: Department for Transport Ministers regularly meet local authorities—including the Local Government Association and the Passenger Transport Executive Group—to discuss transport issues, including the concessionary travel scheme.

Cars: Households

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many households own *(a)* one and *(b)* more than one car. [11273]

Mike Penning: The following table gives estimated car ownership figures for households in Great Britain in 2008 based on data from the National Travel Survey.

Household car availability: Great Britain, 2008

Number of cars	%
None	25
One	43
Two or more	32
All households	100

These data and those for earlier years can be found in Table 2.2 of the Transport Statistics Bulletin - National Travel Survey 2008 at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221531/223955/32274311/NTS2008.pdf

Data for 2009 will be published on the Department for Transport website on 29 July 2010.

Crossrail: Finance

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what private sector funding was provided towards the cost of Crossrail in 2009-10. [11768]

Mrs Villiers: The Crossrail funding package includes contributions from business with specific agreements in place with Canary Wharf Group (for £150 million), City of London (for £350 million), BAA (for £230 million), and Berkeley Homes Group (to construct the Woolwich Station box) as well as wider contributions being made through Business Rate Supplements, the planned Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 developer contributions.

Construction of the Canary Wharf Crossrail station is currently under way and good progress is being made. It is envisaged, on the current rate of construction, that the £150 million Canary Wharf Group contribution to Crossrail will have been put in to the project by June 2011. The other contributions are subject to conditions being met which are set out in the specific agreements. The detailed profile of expenditure by private sector contributors is commercially confidential.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles used the Dartford-Thurrock crossing between 2100 on Friday *(a)* 25 June and 0500 on Monday 28 June, *(b)* 2 July and 0500 on Monday 5 July, *(c)* 9 July and 0500 on Monday 12 July and *(d)* 16 July and 0500 on Monday 19 July 2010. [11235]

Mike Penning: The numbers of vehicles using the Dartford-Thurrock crossing between 9 pm Friday and 5 am Monday on the weekends of 25-28 June, 2-5 July, 9-12 July and 16-19 July 2010 are as follows:

	Northbound	*Southbound*
25 to 28 June 2010	145,987	147,924
2 to 5 July 2010	154,141	153,890
9 to 12 July 2010	150,360	166,275
16 to 19 July 2010	148,573	168,588

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9048]

Norman Baker: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. Departments do not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends and so we are unable to estimate the number of working hours taken up.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. There will have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates, which will be paid for by individual departments. Civil servants attending the event will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by their departments.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the monetary value is of his Department's contracts with its suppliers which *(a)* are under review and *(b)* have been cancelled under his Department's plans to achieve cost savings. [11408]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 339W.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7606]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has measured website design and build costs in line with the guidance issued by the Central Office of Information (COI), "Measuring website costs (TG128)" since the 2009-10 financial year. These design and build costs were reported in the COI 2009-10 web performance management framework (web PMF) and are listed as follows.

Department for Transport website design and build costs 2009-10

Website	*Cost (£)*
www.businesslink.gov.uk/freightbestpractice	8,000
www.businesslink.gov.uk/vanbestpractice	[1]17,000
www.dft.gov.uk	198,000
www.direct.gov.uk/sharp	87,000
www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad	116,000
www.transportdirect.info	[2]1,092,000

[1] Includes the cost of DDA compliance

[2] Includes the cost of technical testing

In line with TG128, Transport executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are currently measuring their website design and build costs for reporting in the 2010-11 web PMF.

The itemised cost for website design and build for the Department, executive agencies and NDPBs for the period between 1997 and 2009-10 are not available centrally and can not be calculated without incurring disproportionate costs.

Going forward, the Department is seeking to reduce website design costs by increasingly designing websites in-house. Where it is necessary to outsource website design, the Department will be seeking the best value for money and, where possible, collaborating or negotiating to achieve savings.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has passed to the Treasury its submission detailing proposals for departmental spending cuts of *(a)* 25% and *(b)* 40%; and whether he plans to publish such submissions. [10573]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 22 July 2010]*: My Department has made a submission to the Treasury in response to its request for illustrative scenarios of a 25% reduction and of further possible reductions beyond 25% in departmental budgets. I do not intend to publish details of these scenarios as they are subject to the spending review, due to conclude in the autumn.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7462]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002. The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency was formed in April 2003. The British Transport Police Authority was established in July 2004 as an executive non-departmental public body of the Department. Passenger Focus was formed in July 2005. The Renewable Fuels Agency was fully operational from February 2008.

The figures provided by the Department and each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies for stationery spend in each year since the formation of the Department are as follows:

£

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DfT(c)	4,947	234,622	326,309	291,146	244,212	327,374	352,077	478,932
DSA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	301,309	374,502	323,846
DVLA	267,000	609,000	332,000	337,000	266,000	984,000	1,304,000	1,216,000
GCDA	29,923	32,472	31,054	32,708	34,656	30,079	40,632	15,715
HA	n/a	308,322	292,080	211,772	201,305	260,940	101,575	106,553
MCA	150,359	175,091	161,265	115,354	100,468	101,339	110,909	107,511
VCA	18,720	19,966	25,903	23,135	25,357	26,950	26,846	25,054
VOSA	—	831,712	802,918	815,046	783,689	755,933	743,732	-686,145
BTP	—	—	—	737,667	475,747	461,973	551,845	619,572
NLB	20,061	26,431	31,614	45,448	37,832	39,941	27,745	20,957
PF	—	—	—	5,065	9,650	8,445	8,830	9,865
RFA	—	—	—	—	—	1,368	2,325	2,719
RH	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
THLS	62,649	73,580	62840	67,821	62,656	43,507	63,985	45,797

Key:

DfT(c)—Department for Transport (Centre)
DSA—Driving Standards Agency
DVLA—Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
GCDA—Government Car and Despatch Agency
HA—Highways Agency
MCA—Maritime and Coastguard Agency
VCA—Vehicle Certification Agency
VOSA—Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
BTP—British Transport Police
NLB—Northern Lighthouse Board
PF—Passenger Focus
RFA—Renewable Fuels Agency
RH—Railway Heritage
THLS—Trinity House Lighthouse Service

The Department for Transport (Centre) has only been able to provide a partial answer for the year 2002-03, because of a move to a new accounting system following machinery of government changes in May 2002. The Driving Standards Agency is currently experiencing a problem with its accounting software, and cannot provide figures for the years prior to 2007-08. The Highways Agency holds financial information for the seven previous complete financial years in accordance with statutory retention periods. Railway Heritage has provided estimated figures.

In 2007 the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency changed to a new accounting system which accumulated the items which were previously accounted for separately as stationery and printed forms. An analysis of these accounts suggests that the difference in levels of expenditure year on year was caused by this accumulation. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency estimates the current spend on the initial stationery definition at between £275,000 and £325,000. To extract this data in the required format would involve interrogating numerous line items within these accounts and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trinity House is funded from the General Lighthouse Fund, and therefore does not rely on government funding for its operations.

The Department for Transport branch that sponsor Cycling England have said that this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost so figures for Cycling England are not included in the table.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7424]

Norman Baker: The table contains the available travel cost figures for the Department for Transport and its agencies. The central Department is only able to provide figures solely for travel from 2006-07 onwards. Figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are for both travel and subsistence.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) can only provide figures from 2007-08, and Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) from 2005-06. Information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The figures for Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) contain both travel and subsistence. Information for travel alone could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) cannot separate travel from other expenditure, and could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

Department for Transport travel costs 2003-04 to 2009-10

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DfT(c)	n/a	5,394,782	5,026,551	3,572,860	3,180,383	3,942,790	3,866,478
MCA	—	—	2,019,040	1,983,040	2,126,362	2,264,267	2,125,000
HA	3,241,959	4,349,028	4,893,411	4,905,988	4,847,336	5,295,914	4,937,599
DSA	—	—	—	—	4,596,151	4,015,815	2,714,351
DVLA	630,320	654,675	851,489	1,721,644	1,230,642	1,480,501	1,201,869
VOSA	6,825,000	6,675,000	7,160,000	6,866,000	7,001,000	7,828,000	6,419,000
VCA	359,559	356,747	449,100	368,547	391,837	459,987	459,987

n/a = Not available

Driving: Eyesight

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who drive with vision below the required legal standard; and if he will make a statement. [11449]

Mike Penning: No regular estimate is made of the number of people who drive with uncorrected vision of below the required standard. In the most recent period for which figures are available (2006-07) 13 drivers were notified to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency by police during a six-month period after failing a roadside vision test.

Driving: Licences

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to review procedures for application for Category F driving licences and the regulations on the use of such licences. [11328]

Mike Penning: There are no plans to review the application procedures for Category F, also known as agricultural tractor, driving licences or the regulations on the use of such licences.

Driving: Licensing

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there were any cases of motorcycle entitlement being removed from a driving licence sent to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for renewal or replacement in the last 12 months. [10380]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is not aware of any case in the last 12 months in which a motorcycle entitlement has been removed from a driver's record and licence.

The agency has a programme of continuous data quality checks in place to monitor the accuracy of its records.

At present, some 2,364 records which contain a motorcycle entitlement are under examination as part of this work.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time taken for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to cancel a driving licence reported stolen in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* abroad was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [11046]

Mike Penning: The issue of a new driving licence will immediately invalidate/cancel any earlier licences.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency aims to process all postal duplicate applications, i.e. applications to replace lost/stolen/defaced licences, within 15 working days of receipt at the agency. Applications for a duplicate licence made over the phone are processed immediately. The average processing time for on-line application is 48 hours.

East Coast Main Line: Finance

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the costs involved in paying for East Coast Main Line staff to travel from Glasgow to Edinburgh on *(a)* a weekly, *(b)* a monthly and *(c)* an annual basis following the decision to reduce the number of East Coast Main Line services starting and terminating in Glasgow. [11877]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have made no specific assessment of additional staff travelling costs arising from the proposed timetable change between Edinburgh and Glasgow. This is a matter for East Coast and the Department for Transport has noted that the costs are included within East Coast's overall costs for provision of the revised pattern of services.

East Coast Main Line: Personnel

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of employees who will have their place of work transferred from Glasgow to Edinburgh as a result of the decision to reduce East Coast Main Line services beginning or ending at Glasgow. [11878]

Mrs Villiers: Any changes in the place of work of any of East Coast's employees arising from the proposed May 2011 timetable changes are a matter for East Coast to determine through the rail industry's normal processes.

EC Directive on Driving Licences

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to ensure all drivers meet the vision standards contained in the EC Directive on Driving Licences 2006/126/EC as amended in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [11450]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel on Driving and Visual Disorders and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency have been considering how the changes to the vision standards contained in the EC Directive on Driving Licences 2006/126/EC should be applied in the UK.

We intend to issue a public consultation on the proposals before making any changes.

Heysham Port

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what infrastructure transport projects are being planned to support the Port of Heysham; [9530]

(2) what economic impact assessment he has made of the costs to the economy of Lancashire of postponing the M6 (Heysham) Link project. [9531]

Norman Baker: The Heysham to M6 link road, being promoted by Lancashire county council, would improve access to the port of Heysham. As with other such schemes, the Government can give no assurances that they can fund this scheme until the outcome of the spending review is known.

No economic impact assessment has been made of the costs to the economy of Lancashire of postponing the Heysham to M6 link road project.

M4

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of carriageway on the M4 are under repair. [11749]

Mike Penning: The following table sets out how many miles of carriageway on the M4, for which the Highways Agency has responsibility, have traffic management in place for the week 19 July to 25 July 2010:

Location	*Direction*	*Type*	*Date range*	*Length in miles*
Woodlands St Mary	Westbound	Resurfacing, concrete barrier installation, drainage upgrade, bridge repair and installation of SPECs and CCTV cameras.	19 to 22 July	2.49
	Westbound	As above	22 to 25 July	0.93
	Eastbound	As above	19 to 22 July	3.11
	Eastbound	As above	22 to 25 July	1.93
Junctions 8/9 to 10	Westbound	Hard shoulder strengthening and lane 1 resurfacing	20 July	1.24
	Westbound	As above	21 to 22 July	4.60
Junctions 8/9 to 10	Eastbound	As above	21 to 22 July	3.23
Pier Protection to Woodlane Overbridge	Westbound	Refurbishment of bridge piers	19 to 25 July	2.42
	Eastbound	As above		2.55

Location	*Direction*	*Type*	*Date range*	*Length in miles*
Junctions 16 to 17	Westbound	Lane 1 closure for delivery of materials	19 to 21 July	1.24
	Westbound	Lane closures for bridge work	20 to 22 July	1.74
	Westbound	Lane 3 closure for barrier repair	22 July	0.74
	Eastbound	Lane 1 closure for delivery of materials	19 to 20 July	0.93
	Eastbound	Lane closures for bridge work	23 to 25 July	1.48
Second Severn Crossing	Eastbound	Hard shoulder, lane 1 and lane 2 closures for repairs to secondary dampers	19 to 23 July	2.29
Junctions 16-15	Eastbound	Hard shoulder closure for cable diversion	20 to 21 July	1.05
Junctions 17-18	Westbound	Hard shoulder closure for barrier repair	20 July	0.31
	Westbound	Lane 3 closure for barrier repair	21 July	0.31
Total				32.59

The Highways Agency plans works on the strategic road network to limit disruption to traffic flow and will therefore undertake a variety of works within the confines of traffic management.

Motorcycles: Helmets

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on compulsory wearing of helmets by those riding quad bikes; and if he will make a statement. [10915]

Mike Penning: None. There are no plans to make the wearing of helmets compulsory for quad bikes but we continue to keep the position under review. There are a number of factors that are taken into consideration such as the level of use, the safety of riders in a collision and the proportionality of the costs of any regulation versus the safety impacts. The Highway Code advises that riders and passengers of tricycles and quadricycles should wear a protective helmet (rule 83).

Network Rail: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors he plans to take into account in determining the level of the annual Network Rail grant. [9182]

Mrs Villiers: The level of grant required for Network Rail to carry out its activities is determined by the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) as part of the five-yearly periodic review process. The ORR has published the level of grant and the factors taken into account in its document 'Periodic Review 2008—Determination of Network Rail's outputs and funding for 2009-14'. They include the high level outputs specified by the Secretary of State and the public funds available to deliver those outputs.

The ORR has set Network Rail a target to achieve at least a 21% improvement in operating, maintenance and renewals efficiency between 2009-10 and 2013-14.

Official Cars: House of Commons

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from hon. Members on the running of car engines of ministerial cars while they are waiting in the precincts of the House; and if he will make a statement. [11061]

Mike Penning: No representations have been received from hon. Members on the running of car engines of ministerial cars while waiting in the precincts of the House. The Government Car and Despatch Agency issues regular reminders to its drivers not to engage in this practice.

Port of Teesside

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the port of Teesside. [11150]

Mike Penning: The port of Teesside (Teesport) is owned and operated by a private company, PD Ports.

I understand the company's new owner has earmarked funding for the first phase of an expansion that would raise the terminal handing capacity from the current 235,000 teu (20 foot equivalent units) to 450,000 teu.

Public Transport: EU Action

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the European Commission's draft regulation on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport on public transport costs and fares in England; and if he will make a statement. [10853]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport produced a post-consultation impact assessment on the European Commission's draft regulation on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport in December 2009. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. This indicated that the proposal would be likely to place a significant cost on the industry which could be passed on to passengers through higher fares.

During negotiations significant changes to the original proposal were made by the Transport Council of Ministers which should reduce the cost to industry, but the text has to be agreed with the European Parliament which has opposed some of these changes. The impact assessment will be updated once the text is finalised.

Railway Network

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 722W, on railways, which proposed improvements to the rail strategic network he is examining prior to the comprehensive spending review. [10830]

Mrs Villiers: As part of the spending review process, the Government are examining the full range of transport expenditure.

Railways: Construction

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account was taken of the High Speed North proposals in determining the design and route for a national high-speed rail network. [9740]

Mr Philip Hammond: In preparing their report and recommendations to Government, HS2 Ltd considered a range of potential network configurations, including a 'reverse E', which is similar to the High Speed North proposal. The Government expect to publish further detail on their strategy for a national high speed network prior to public consultation in the new year.

Railways: Overcrowding

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of levels of overcrowding on commuter rail services into London along *(a)* the Midland Mainline and *(b)* the Thameslink route. [11307]

Mrs Villiers: Information relating to overcrowding for commuter rail services at each station along the Midland Mainline and Thameslink routes is not available. The information requested is currently published annually in aggregated form by the Office of Rail Regulation within its 'National Rail Trends Yearbook'. The latest published data relate to passenger journeys in 2008-09.

Chapter 7 of the latest update of 'National Rail Trends' contains these data and is available on the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

Railways: Passengers

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to consult passengers on routes and stops proposed through future rail franchise agreements. [11208]

Mrs Villiers: When developing the base specification for new rail franchises, the Department for Transport routinely consults passengers on a variety of issues, including services patterns.

On 22 July, we launched the document "Reforming Rail Franchising" which seeks stakeholder views on the future direction of the policy. While it does not propose any specific changes to the existing consultation arrangements, I envisage it may generate proposals for improvements which we would consider in due course.

Railways: Todmorden

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on *(a)* the economy and *(b)* journey times of the proposed Todmorden Curve rail project. [8540]

Mrs Villiers: The Todmorden Curve rail project is being promoted by Burnley borough council and Lancashire county council. It is for those bodies to carry out an assessment of the economic benefits arising from this scheme and the introduction of a new service between Burnley and Manchester. It is estimated that the journey time for the new service would be approximately 47 minutes.

Road Traffic

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to reduce congestion on the most congested A roads. [11403]

Mike Penning: The Government believe that a functioning, effective road network is crucial to Britain's economic growth prospects. However, the single most pressing problem facing the nation is reducing the deficit.

We therefore wish to focus on sweating the existing asset, and making sure that the road network is being used efficiently and effectively.

For A roads which are trunk roads, the Department for Transport already delivers a wide range of measures to tackle congestion through the Highways Agency. This includes managing incidents and events more effectively, targeted capacity improvements, reducing delays from road works and delivering better information services to drivers to help them make better choices on how and when they travel.

Tackling congestion on A roads which are not trunk roads is the responsibility of the relevant local highway authority who can address congestion as part of their Local Transport Plans. Measures to tackle congestion may include improving alternatives to car travel as well as general improvements to road capacity and traffic management. Schemes include bus lanes, traffic calming, cycle routes, pedestrian crossings, urban traffic control, park and ride, junction improvements, better information and working with employers and schools on travel plans to promote non-car travel.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to review the regional funding allocations for highway schemes made in 2005. [2534]

Norman Baker: Until the conclusion of the spending review this autumn the Department can give no assurances that highway schemes, or any other schemes, prioritised under the previous Government's regional funding allocations (RFA) process will be funded to the previously published levels.

Roads: Safety

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes to his Department's funding to Nottinghamshire county council for road safety are proposed for 2010-11. [6900]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 8 July 2010]:* The following changes have been made to planned DFT grant payments for 2010-11 related to road safety for Nottinghamshire county council.

			£000
Funding stream for 2010-11	*Original planned payments*	*Changes to planned payments*	*Currently planned payments*
Road safety revenue (part of area based grant)	1,586	-422	1,164
Road safety capital grant	353	-353	0
Integrated transport grant	10,660	-2,665	7,995

We have undertaken the reductions in planned funding in a way which maximises local authorities' flexibility to reshape their budgets according to their local priorities and where their efficiencies can be found. The Government do not expect there to be a direct correlation between grant reductions and local authority budget changes. Road safety should remain a high priority and local authorities should continue to resource it with funds reallocated as a result of identifying efficiency savings in other areas.

Seas and Oceans: Death

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths in the workplace took place at sea in each year from 1997 to 2009. [10515]

Mike Penning: The accidental deaths of workers on, or overboard from, UK commercial vessels (including fishing vessels) from 1997 to 2009 are reportable to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch. These were as follows:

	Number
1997	38
1998	31
1999	13
2000	35
2001	13
2002	15
2003	14
2004	16
2005	11
2006	22
2007	22
2008	13
2009	19
Total	262

Speed Limits

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the national speed limit. [5469]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport keeps all speed limits under constant review to ensure they remain appropriate. There are no current plans to reduce the national speed limit as we believe it offers the best balance between issues of safety, the environment and the economy.

Think Brand

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on its evaluation of the effectiveness of the THINK! brand in each of the last five years; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the reports of that evaluation. [11897]

Mike Penning: In the last five years, the Department for Transport has undertaken two reviews for the THINK! road safety brand, one in 2006-07 and one in 2009-10. Costs are as follows (exclusive of VAT) and a copy of each of the reports has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Project	*Cost (ex VAT) (£)*
THINK! brand review	
2006-07	72,000
2009-10	30,150

Transport: South Yorkshire

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reductions in his Department's transport-related grant expenditure in South Yorkshire are planned in 2010-11. [8557]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The Government have made clear that their most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit. To help achieve this, on 10 June the Department for Communities and Local Government announced £1.166 billion of savings from grants to local authorities in 2010-11. Details of all transport grant reductions to local authorities are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/

The Department for Transport spends funds on the strategic road network through the Highways Agency. The Highways Agency's reporting systems do not record actual expenditure for local authority areas; expenditure is recorded by project and activity. Estimates are compiled for regional expenditure to supplement data reported in the Department's annual report.

The Department for Transport provides funding for Network Rail to maintain or enhance the rail network, including railway stations. As part of the Government's in-year efficiency savings announced on 24 May, Network Rail has agreed to pay the Department £100 million in 2010-11.

Wrexham-Bidston Railway Line: Electrification

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on the economy of the electrification of the Wrexham to Bidston rail line. [9943]

Mrs Villiers: We support further electrification of the rail network. The Government believe that a modern transport infrastructure is essential for a dynamic and entrepreneurial economy, as well as to improve well-being and quality of life. However, the deficit reduction programme must take precedence and plans for rail infrastructure will depend on decisions to be made in the comprehensive spending review.

Officials are being kept informed on work being done by Merseytravel and the Welsh Assembly Government on proposals for electrification on the Wrexham to Bidston line.

EDUCATION

Academies: Ealing Central and Acton

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest in academy status have been received from schools in Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [7873]

Mr Gibb: We have received three expressions of interest in converting to academy status from schools in the Ealing Central and Acton constituency.

Academies: Finance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the accuracy of figures provided by his Department's academy funding ready reckoner. [5583]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* The academy funding ready reckoner is intended to give maintained schools an indication of the level of funding they would receive as an academy, compared to their current funding. The main change in funding that an academy would see is a grant to cover the cost of local authority central services that the academy will now be responsible for funding itself. These amounts are based on data from statutory financial statements, published by every local authority, which are thoroughly checked by the Department for inconsistencies and anomalies. Local authorities are given the opportunity to review and confirm the accuracy of the figures they provide.

Academies: Special Educational Needs

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy that children with special educational needs are not excluded from academies on either a fixed term or a permanent basis when behavioural difficulties related to their special educational needs arise. [7006]

Mr Gibb: The duties and responsibilities of academies in respect of exclusions are, and will remain, the same as those of maintained schools.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effects on *(a)* academic and *(b)* behavioural standards in schools of the provision of new school buildings and facilities under the (i) Building Schools for the Future and (ii) Primary Capital Programme. [1202]

Mr Gibb: The Department in 2006 commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to undertake an independent evaluation of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. This runs for a total of six years to support the longitudinal evaluation of the impact of investment in school buildings on educational achievement. Three annual reports have been published, the most recent in March 2010.

The latest evaluation concluded that, to date, BSF has had little statistically significant impact on pupils' attitudes and behaviour, and that it is overall too early to measure impact on attainment or whether the programme is providing value for money. This echoes the finding of the National Audit Office in its 2009 report "The Building Schools for the Future Programme" which highlighted how the programme had initially over-optimistic expectations on delivery; how estimates of the overall cost of the programme have increased substantially; and how the cost of setting up local education partnerships has been too high for the first authorities.

No assessment on the Primary Capital Programme has been made at this stage.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Northfield of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 306W, what records his Department holds of advice given to Birmingham city council by officials in the Department for Children, Schools and Families on the applicability to the city of Birmingham of the funding envelope applied to the most recent invitations to bid under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [3217]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July, the Department announced that Building Schools for the Future projects which have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects which have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. This will have an impact on Birmingham's BSF projects.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS), as the delivery agent for Building Schools for the Future (BSF), was responsible for managing the process of inviting local authorities to submit applications to local authorities to join the programme.

PfS holds records of the response to Birmingham city council's Readiness to Deliver (RtD) application which was made in September 2009. Local authorities have been required to demonstrate that they are 'ready to deliver' before being invited to join the BSF programme.

and the RtD covers in summary form the education strategy, the procurement strategy and the project governance arrangements.

The records held comprise an action note of a meeting on 8 December 2009 between PfS and Birmingham city council. The action note highlights the advice that Birmingham needed to revise the project scope to reflect a funding envelope of circa. £100 million. The subsequent invitation to Birmingham city council to resubmit their documentation, which was sent on 23 December 2009, referred the authority to PfS guidance which included information on funding allocation.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 47-73, whether Dyke House sports and technology college in Hartlepool will be permitted to continue its capital build programme according to its proposed timetable. [7212]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July, the Department announced that BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case (OBC) approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect.

Since Dyke House sports and technology college is a sample school further consideration will be given shortly.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will meet the principal-designate of Brompton academy, Gillingham to discuss the Academy's future building programme. [8623]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* On 5 July, the Department announced that Building Schools for the Future projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case (OBC) approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect.

The Secretary of State also announced on 5 July that he would consider the case of some academy projects in the pipeline on a case by case basis. Brompton academy falls in this category. Officials have already been in touch with the sponsor and they have been invited to provide information about their specific capital needs. We aim to let sponsors know the outcome of our review before the summer recess.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Hyndburn

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to improve the quality of school buildings in Hyndburn constituency. [836]

Mr Gibb: The Department is reviewing all areas of capital spending. In light of current methods of allocating capital, its purpose is to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and its strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage.

Business: Curriculum

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to include the development of entrepreneurial skills in the national curriculum. [9503]

Mr Gibb: Although it is not part of the statutory national curriculum, guidance on enterprise education is included in the non-statutory programmes of study for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) at key stages 3 and 4, within the context of work-related learning. The existing primary national curriculum handbook also contains non-statutory guidance on promoting aspects of the school curriculum such as enterprise education.

The Government have made clear that they intend to restore the national curriculum to its original purpose: a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines. A slimmed down national curriculum will provide greater freedom for schools to build on the core statutory requirements and for teachers to use their professional judgment on how to teach. We will be announcing further details of our plans in due course.

Care Homes: Standards

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to publish his conclusions from his predecessor Department's consultation on the draft minimum standards for children's homes; and if he will make a statement. [9905]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* The intention is to publish revised national minimum standards for children's homes, fostering service providers and adoption services together with a summary of conclusions reached in the light of the consultation on the draft standards, in November 2010.

Connexions Service

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency have used the Connexions service in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [8208]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows how many young people in the West Midlands region and in Dudley local authority had significant contact with the Connexions service in the years requested.

Interventions with young people by the Connexions service, April 2006 to March 2010[1]

	West Midlands region	*Dudley*
2006/07	336,532	16,853
2007/08	290,530	15,143
2008/09	286,009	17,343
2009/10	254,406	16,614

[1] Prior to April 2006 data unavailable at local authority level.

This information cannot be broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Significant contact is recorded as an 'intervention', and includes one-to-one contact and telephone, e-mail and text message contact of an individual nature. It excludes bulk mail and publicity information. In addition to recorded interventions, young people may receive advice from local Connexions services in many other ways; for example through group sessions, exhibitions and publications, Careers libraries and One-Stop-Shops, as well as from Connexions Direct (nationally available since February 2004) via the telephone, web chat facility, e-mail or text message.

Departmental Manpower

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5110]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was established on 12 May 2010.

Information on the cost of the human resource function for the Department is submitted to the Operational Efficiencies Programme (OEP) benchmarking survey. The cost of the human resources function in the former Department for Education and Skills was £8,534,000 in 2008/09. Costs for 2009/10 are currently being drawn up but will show a reduction. OEP benchmarking survey is due to be published by Treasury in October 2010.

The publication of human resource function costs before 2008/09 was not a formal requirement and, therefore, information was not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997; [7484]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7609]

Tim Loughton: The Department's expenditure on logo design is outlined as follows:

	£
2010	5,250
2008	5,460
2007	325

The Department's website is continuously updated and modifications are also made on the design from time to time. The most recent redesign and implementation of the Department's website, in May 2010, cost £6,345. Website designs and costs in previous years are outlined as follows:

	£
2009	5,278
2008	2,111
2007	[1]—

[1] No cost.

As the Department does not hold central records for each of the years since 1997, nor for its non-departmental public bodies, costs for both logo and website design cannot be provided for other years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present Administration; and at what cost. [6436]

Tim Loughton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 52W.

Department for Education Ministers have attended ministerial induction events which are funded by the National School of Government through its Core Learning Programme. There is no separate charge to this Department.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7427]

Tim Loughton: The following table shows how much the Department for Education and its non-departmental public bodies spent on travel for its employees in each year since 1997.

	Business travel (£)
1996/97	2,501,545
1997/98	2,637,672
1998/99	2,995,843
1999/2000	3,762,955
2000/01	4,703,604
2001/02	5,150,470
2002/03	5,287,937
2003/04	8,534,956
2004/05	8,607,197
2005/06	9,061,644
2006/07	9,594,155
2007/08	10,219,214
2008/09	11,936,467
2009/10	11,644,576

Notes:

1. Business travel. NDPB spend is included in each years figures from 2003/04.
2. In 2009/10 the split on business travel was DFE £4,121,466, NDPBs £7,423,110.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was spent on *(a)* regular education maintenance allowance (EMA) payments and *(b)* the twice-yearly EMA bonus payments in academic year (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [9156]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Free School Meals: Cornwall

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the take-up of free school meals in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* St Austell and Newquay constituency. [8629]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 July 2010]*: Information on the number of pupils taking free school meals on the day of the census, together with the number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, is shown in the following table for Cornwall local authority and St Austell and Newquay parliamentary constituency.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: School meal arrangements as at January 2010

	Maintained nursery and primary[1]					*State-funded secondary[1,2]*				
	Number on roll[3]	*Number of pupils taking free school meals[4]*	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3,5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number on roll[3]*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals[4]*	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3,5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*
Cornwall local authority	37,630	4,180	11.1	4,890	13.0	31,960	2,510	7.9	3,280	10.3
St Austell and Newquay parliamentary constituency	6,650	770	11.6	920	13.8	5,900	480	8.1	610	10.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes full and part time pupils who are sole or dual (main) registrations. Includes boarders.

[4] Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the day of the census.

[5] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons eg through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

Source:

School Census

Free Schools

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what sources of advice and information are available to parents who are considering establishing a free school; [7769]

(2) how many contracts New Schools Network has been awarded in the last 12 months. [7689]

Mr Gibb: Advice and information on establishing a free school is available on the Department for Education's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/freeschools

Those considering developing a proposal are advised to contact the New Schools Network (NSN) in the first instance. NSN is able to provide guidance on developing a proposal for submission to the Department. The contact details for the NSN are also listed on the Department's website.

The Department has not entered into any contracts with the New Schools Network in the last 12 months. However, on 18 June 2010 the Department agreed to enter into a £500,000 grant agreement with NSN to provide support for groups wanting to find out more about setting-up a free school.

GCSE: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency obtained five A* to C grades at GCSE in each year since 1997. [8143]

Mr Gibb: The information available to answer this question is provided in the following tables. Parliamentary constituency data for years 1997/98 to 2003/04 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(a) Number of pupils in the West Midlands achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent 1996/97-2008/09[1,2]*

	Total number of pupils	*Number of pupils achieving 5 + A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5 + A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent*
1996/97	61,498	24,733	40.2
1997/98	60,913	25,138	41.3
1998/99	62,020	26,972	43.5
1999/2000	61,288	27,441	44.8
2000/01	63,945	29,262	45.8
2001/02	63,881	30,742	48.1
2002/03	65,293	32,797	50.2
2003/04	66,779	33,967	50.9
2004/05	66,240	36,001	54.3
2005/06	67,742	38,232	56.4
2006/07	68,658	40,734	59.3
2007/08	67,466	43,263	64.1
2008/09	64,883	45,461	70.1

[1] Figures for 2004/05-2008/09 are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.Figures for 1996/97-2003/04 are for pupils aged 15 on 31 August.

[2] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools including Academies, City Technology Colleges and special schools

Source:

School Achievement and Attainment tables and National Pupil Database (Final data) *(b) Number of pupils in Dudley Borough achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent 1996/97-2008/09*[1,2]

	Total number of pupils	Number of pupils achieving 5 + A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent	Percentage of pupils achieving 5 + A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent
1996/97	3,639	1,548	42.5
1997/98	3,660	1,620	44.3
1998/99	3,695	1,760	47.6
1999/2000	3,673	1,776	48.4
2000/01	3,951	1,963	49.7
2001/02	4,008	2,073	51.7
2002/03	3,961	2,016	50.9
2003/04	3,985	2,044	51.3
2004/05	4,077	2,182	53.5
2005/06	4,070	2,273	55.8
2006/07	4,136	2,353	56.9
2007/08	4,202	2,566	61.1
2008/09	3,965	2,644	66.7

[1] Figures for 2004/05-2008/09 are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Figures for 1996/97 -2003/04 are for pupils aged 15 on 31 August.

[2] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools including Academies, City Technology Colleges and special schools.

Source:

School Achievement and Attainment tables and National Pupil Database (Final data)

(c) Number of pupils in Dudley North Parliamentary Constituency achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent 1996/97 and 2004/05-2008/09*[1,2]

	Total number of pupils	Number of pupils achieving 5 + A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent	Percentage of pupils achieving 5 + A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent
1996/97	1,049	392	37.4
2004/05	1,148	578	50.3
2005/06	1,125	573	50.9
2006/07	1,168	601	51.5
2007/08	1,179	680	57.7
2008/09	1,126	728	64.7

[1] Figures for 2004/05-2008/09 are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Figures for 1996/97 are for pupils aged 15 on the 31 August.

[2] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools including Academies, City Technology Colleges and special schools

Source:

School Achievement and Attainment tables and National Pupil Database (Final data)

Headteachers: Pay

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which head teachers in which schools had a remuneration package of over £120,000 in 2009-10; and what the remuneration package was of each. [9333]

Mr Gibb: In maintained schools teachers are employed either by the local authority or the governing body at the school, and therefore the Department does not hold details of individual remuneration packages.

Since 31 March 2010, information on teachers employed by local authorities earning £150,000 or more in the 2009-10 financial year is required to be published in their accounts.

Higher Education: Admissions

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students from *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth applied for university entry in 2009. [11871]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The information is in the following table:

Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions from Staffordshire and Tamworth in 2009, based on information from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

	Number of applicants
Staffordshire constituencies	8,677
(of which from) Tamworth	695

Source:

UCAS.

The constituencies included in Staffordshire are Burton, Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent Central, Stoke-on-Trent North, Stoke-on-Trent South, Stone and Tamworth, and based on the boundaries in 2009.

Local History: Curriculum

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps are being taken to encourage the teaching of local history in schools. [9525]

Mr Gibb: We intend to review the national curriculum and we will announce the detail of the process for the review in due course. We will restore the national curriculum to its original purpose—a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines and we will consult widely on it. History is a vital part of young peoples' education and will be covered in the consultation.

National Curriculum Tests

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps Ofsted plans to take to assess the performance of schools which did not take part in standard assessment tests in 2009-10. [7224]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector Christine Gilbert has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 12 July 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The boycott of Key Stage 2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) will have little or no impact on inspection at this stage and this position is set out in guidance issued to schools and inspectors in the June 2010 version of our journal "Schools and Inspection", available online at

www.ofsted.gov.uk

During inspections of those schools which participated in the boycott, inspectors cannot take account of the provisional Key Stage 2 SAT results which have, in the past, been available. These provisional results often provide a useful starting point for inspectors' discussions with schools, and judgements about pupils' attainment, pending publication of the validated results in the autumn term.

However, inspectors can still follow the broad principles set out in our "Evaluation schedule for schools" and supplementary guidance. In reaching an overall view about attainment, inspectors will continue to exercise professional judgement in weighing all the evidence they have gathered and setting this against the credibility and accuracy of the school's teacher assessment data.

Ofsted and Department for Education officials are currently assessing whether the absence of data for the schools which participated in the boycott will affect the validity of contextual value-added measures or distort national benchmarks for attainment thresholds. A critical factor relates to whether the historic performance of schools which boycotted the tests is broadly representative of schools as a whole. For example, if there was a predominance of weaker schools, the national picture of attainment for 2010 might be artificially inflated by their absence from the statistics.

These are critical issues which require careful consideration before we issue further guidance for the autumn term 2010. The autumn term guidance will deal with the impact of the boycott on attainment and progress data in RAISEonline and its use by inspectors. In addition, It will continue to steer inspectors to exercise professional judgement in weighing all the evidence they have gathered.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Ofsted

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the reform of Ofsted; and if he will make a statement. [9063]

Mr Gibb: The Government plan to streamline and refocus Ofsted inspection, and introduce greater proportionality into the inspection arrangements. School inspection will in future be centred on core areas around teaching and learning, and outstanding schools will be freed from routine inspection, subject to them maintaining their performance and the confidence of parents. Similar freedoms are proposed for colleges. Further detail on this programme of reform will be announced in due course.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce his policy on personal, social, health and economic education. [10381]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* We are considering our plans for PSHE and will make an announcement in due course.

Physics: Teachers

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to increase the incentives for physics graduates to enter the teaching profession. [9631]

Mr Gibb: We accept that there is a continuing need to increase the number of physics teachers and it is our policy intention to attract more physics and other science graduates into the profession. We are therefore reviewing the routes into teaching and the incentives offered to well qualified people who want to teach physics or one of the other science disciplines. We are considering a scheme to repay the student loans of science and mathematics teachers. We have also announced plans to double the number of participants in the successful scheme Teach First so that more schools may benefit from the talents of the country's best graduates. Three-quarters of Teach First participants teach the most demanding shortage subjects, including science. Further initiatives will be announced when we are in a position to do so.

School Improvement Partners

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the role of school improvement partners. [9061]

Mr Gibb: The Department is considering the role of school improvement partners in the context of the overall school improvement system. This is one of the areas to be discussed by the new advisory group focusing on the role of local authorities announced by the Secretary of State on 8 July.

Schools: Cricket

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has allocated to *(a)* all schools, *(b)* non-selective state schools, *(c)* selective state schools and *(d)* independent schools for cricket in the last 12 months. [11133]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not allocate money to schools specifically for cricket. Cricket taught as part of the national curriculum will be funded through schools' core funding. Over the last five years, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has allocated £1.5 million to the ECB to develop and improve links between schools and local cricket clubs as part of the school-club links programme. All maintained schools in England are currently part of the national network of school sport partnerships and are able to benefit from these links. Independent schools may join these partnerships on a cost neutral cost basis.

Schools: Employment Tribunals Service

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on employment tribunal claims arising from schools opting out of national pay and terms and conditions arrangements in each of the next three years. [6071]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education is not the employer of members of the school work force and accordingly it has made no estimate for expenditure on employment tribunal claims in schools.

Schools: ICT

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the contribution of ICT and broadband technologies to improving the quality of education and attainment standards. [7547]

Mr Gibb: The Department recognises the role that technology can play to support good teaching and deliver improvements in attainment. However, we have made it clear that we think schools are best placed to make decisions about how to use the resources available to them to support the needs of their pupils.

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of attainment in schools of ending the Harnessing Technology Grant. [9461]

Mr Gibb: The Harnessing Technology Grant is being reduced by 50% in the current financial year. ICT infrastructure is now well-embedded in schools—for example all schools now have broadband internet connections. We believe that technology, combined with good teaching, will continue to help to improve levels of attainment. We have made it clear, however, that we want schools and local authorities to take their own decisions on the best use of technology in their particular circumstances.

Schools: Musical Instruments

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that every school child has an opportunity to learn a musical instrument. [9526]

Mr Gibb: A solid, knowledge-based music education is important, and so is learning a musical instrument. We recognise that there are limitations on how far classroom teachers can be expected to provide instrumental tuition and are looking at how provision can be shaped in future in the context of an inevitably tight financial settlement.

Schools: Racism

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many complaints about racism in schools have been forwarded to his Department by Nottinghamshire county council in each of the last three years. [6628]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 7 July 2010]:* There have been no complaints about racism in schools directed to this Department from Nottinghamshire county council within the past three years.

Schools: Standards

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans his Department has for the future of National Challenge trusts for schools; [7762]

(2) whether his Department plans to award trust status to Arrow Vale High School, Worcester. [7763]

Mr Gibb: We have not yet made a decision on the future of National Challenge trusts. An announcement will be made in due course.

Secondary Education: Standards

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of secondary school educational standards in *(a)* South Northamptonshire and *(b)* England. [8535]

Mr Gibb: The number and percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in *(a)* South Northamptonshire and *(b)* England, achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs in the year 2008/09 is provided in the following table.

Number of pupils[1] [2] in (a) South Northamptonshire[3] and (b) England[4] achieving 5 or more A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs in 2008/09*

	Number of pupils[1]	*Number of pupils[1] achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs*	*Percentage of pupils[1] achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs*
South Northamptonshire Parliamentary Constituency[3]	1,319	708	53.7
England[4]	578,840	293,443	50.7

[1] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. [2] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools including academies, city technology colleges and special schools. [3] Regional figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas. [4] England figures include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

Source: National Pupil Database (Final Data).

Teach First

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department allocated to the Teach First programme between its inception and May 2010. [8759]

Mr Gibb: The Department has allocated a total of £51.24 million to the Teach First programme between its inception in 2002 and March 2011, which includes the extra £4 million announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July to facilitate a further expansion of Teach First.

Teach First: North West

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of the grant for the Teach First programme announced on 7 July 2010 will be disbursed in the north-west; and if he will make a statement. [8758]

Mr Gibb: Teach First have had a presence in the North West since 2005. Of the 560 starting the programme in 2010-11, 63 have been recruited from the north-west. The new funding announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July is largely intended to pave the way for further expansion into areas not already served by Teach First, including the north-east, south-west and east of England.

Teachers: Pay

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of schools had *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received permission not to pay teachers according to the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document as at 25 May 2010; [10600]

(2) how many *(a)* school governing bodies and *(b)* local authorities have (i) applied for and (ii) received permission not to pay teachers according to the School

Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document under the provisions of section 2 of the Education Act 2002. [10601]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]*: Since the provisions of section 2 of the Education Act 2002 (the Powers to Facilitate Innovation) were introduced, the Department has received three applications of which one was from a governing body, and two were from local authorities, requesting amendments to teachers' pay and conditions. None of these applications resulted in the Secretary of State making an order under these powers. There are some 23,000 maintained schools in England.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to reply to question 3217, on the Building Schools for the Future programme in Birmingham, tabled on 14 June 2010. [9309]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]*: A response has been issued today.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 7212, tabled on 6 July 2010, on Building Schools for the Future and Dyke House. [11357]

Mr Gibb: A response will be sent to the hon. Member today.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 7689, tabled on 7 July 2010, on the New Schools Network. [11358]

Mr Gibb: A response will be sent to the hon. Member today.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 7769, tabled on 7 July 2010, on information and advice to parents on free schools. [11359]

Mr Gibb: A response will be sent to the hon. Member today.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Advertising

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of restrictions on alcohol advertising in cinemas; and if he will make a statement. [10349]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply, as advertising in cinemas falls under my remit as Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries.

Cinema advertising in the UK is strictly controlled through industry self-regulation, enforced by the Advertising Standards Authority. This regulatory system, which is independent of Government and ultimately responsible for setting the standards in advertising, regularly reviews the effectiveness of the alcohol advertising rules.

The regulation of alcohol advertising must be robust and based on best evidence. If new evidence emerged which clearly highlighted major problems in relation to consumer harm or protection of the vulnerable caused by alcohol advertising, then the regulators would need to consider this fully and take appropriate action.

Alzheimer's Disease: Cumbria

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding has been allocated to caring for people with Alzheimer's disease in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Carlisle constituency for the next 12 months. [10759]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Carlisle constituency, have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. [10760]

Mr Burstow: The Department currently allocates funding directly to primary care trusts (PCTs). PCT allocations are not broken down by policy area. PCTs make decisions on investment in health care for their communities, taking into account both local and national priorities.

In 2010-11, Cumbria Teaching PCT received a revenue allocation of £826.9 million. Data on the number of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease is not collected centrally. However, the Quality and Outcomes Framework includes a disease register for patients who have been diagnosed with any form of dementia (including Alzheimer's disease). The latest available figures are for 2008-09.

There were 3,114 patients on the dementia register in Cumbria PCT in 2008-09. The figures are organised by practice and aggregated into PCT and strategic health authority. It is therefore not possible to give figures for Carlisle constituency.

Notes:

1. QOF: QOF is the national Quality and Outcomes Framework, introduced as part of the new General Medical Services (GMS) contract on 1 April 2004. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most Personal Medical Services (PMS) practices also taking part.

2. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS), a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health.

3. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement. QMAS is a national IT system developed by NHS Connecting for Health to support the QOF. The Quality Management Analysis System captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice.

CJD

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what testing of the relatives of individuals affected by variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease his Department undertakes. [10942]

Anne Milton: The Department does not undertake any such testing.

There is no blood or other test currently available for routine variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease testing of asymptomatic individuals.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the time taken for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease to incubate. [10945]

Anne Milton: The incubation period for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) is unknown and may vary due to factors such as route of transmission and genotype of patient. For the majority of cases where consumption of meat or meat products is presumed to be the route of infection the minimum incubation period is likely to be five years, with a mean period of around 10-12 years and the maximum, as in other human transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, may extend over decades. Of the three clinical cases of vCJD presumed to be associated with blood transfusion the incubation periods are estimated to be between six and nine years.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease affecting the MV gene type have been reported in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* England and *(d)* Northern Ireland since 1996; [11005]

(2) how many cases of *(a)* definite, *(b)* probable and *(c)* possible variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease of the MV gene type have been recorded since 1996; [11006]

(3) how many deaths from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease among people with *(a)* MM variations, *(b)* MV variations and *(c)* VV variations there have been since 1996. [11008]

Anne Milton: There have been no definite or probable cases of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in patients with a MV genotype. A single possible case of vCJD in a patient with a MV genotype was reported in 2008 in Scotland. This case is recorded in the 17th Annual Report of the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Surveillance Unit published in November 2009 and publicly available at:

www.cjd.ed.ac.uk/report17.htm

The 17th Annual Report records that of the four patients with a final classification of possible vCJD, three were of the MM genotype and only one of MV genotype.

The MV case has also been described in a publication: "Variant CJD in an individual heterozygous for PRNP codon 129 Kaski D, Mead S, Hyare H, Cooper S, Jampana R, Overell J, Knight R, Collinge J, Rudge Lancet 2009. 374:212.

The National Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Surveillance Unit has provided the following information about deaths from vCJD:

United Kingdom definite and probable vCJD deaths 1995 to 2010

	Number deaths	Genotype known	Genotype unknown	MM	MV	VV
1995	3	3	0	3	0	0
1996	10	10	0	10	0	0
1997	10	10	0	10	0	0
1998	18	18	0	18	0	0
1999	15	15	0	15	0	0
2000	28	25	3	25	0	0
2001	20	18	2	18	0	0
2002	17	15	2	15	0	0
2003	18	8	10	8	0	0
2004	9	8	1	8	0	0
2005	5	5	0	5	0	0
2006	5	5	0	5	0	0
2007	5	5	0	5	0	0
2008	1	1	0	1	0	0
2009	3	3	0	3	0	0
2010	2	2	0	2	0	0
Total	169	151	18	151	0	0

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition of *(a)* probable and *(b)* possible his Department uses in the identification of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease cases. [11007]

Anne Milton: The Department uses the internationally recognised World Health Organisation diagnostic criteria for case classification, research protocols and official statistics. These are publicly available at:

www.who.int/entity/zoonoses/diseases/Creutzfeldt.pdf

Consumer Groups

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consumer groups he has met since his appointment. [10209]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been no meetings between the Secretary of State for Health and consumer groups since his appointment.

Dementia

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on introducing a statutory minimum level of dementia awareness training for those working with older people; and if he will make a statement. [9971]

Mr Burstow: No such representations have been received. Objective 13 of the National Dementia Strategy calls for an informed and effective work force for people with dementia, to be achieved by effective basic training and continuous professional and vocational development. The Department has recently received the results of a mapping exercise identifying the current extent of accredited dementia education and training, and where there are gaps. This evidence is being considered by a work force advisory group chaired by the national clinical director for dementia, Professor Alistair Burns, and including a range of key stakeholders.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7359]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the spend on office refurbishment is only available for the Department from April 1998 and NHS Connecting for Health from 2005. This expenditure was as follows:

April to March each year	*Expenditure on office refurbishment (£)*
1998-99	1,271,733
1999-2000	1,453,483
2000-01	652,456
2001-02	555,000
2002-03	788,000
2003-04	1,113,565
2004-05	963,974
2005-06	5,673,368
2006-07	3,718,976
2007-08	2,704,610
2008-09	4,262,629
2009-10	5,270,612

Comprehensive information on refurbishment expenditure from all of the Department's non-departmental bodies and executive agencies is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Limited information from 2001 to 2010 has been obtained from the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, General Social Care Council, Care Quality Commission, Health Protection Agency, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Appointments Commission. Total expenditure for refurbishment for these bodies was as follows:

April to March each year	*Expenditure on refurbishment (£)*
2001-02	32,000
2002-03	2,930,000
2003-04	267,000
2004-05	215,000
2005-06	6,847,000
2006-07	3,132,000
2007-08	4,566,000
2008-09	5,113,000
2009-10	4,072,000

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7447]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on hospitality in the Department is not available before 2004.

Hospitality expenditure is recorded in relation to catering provided for meetings and events. The Department orders the majority of hospitality through the central catering contract, which is used for Richmond house, Skipton house, Wellington house and New Kings Beam house but excludes Quarry house. Hospitality expenditure from 2004 to 2010 for the Department is as follows:

	Expenditure on hospitality (£)
2004-05	550,746
2005-06	607,598
2006-07	580,360
2007-08	650,513
2008-09	616,202
2009-10	310,942

Comprehensive information on hospitality for NHS Connecting for Health and a number of our other bodies and executive agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Limited information is available from 2002 to 2010 for the Appointments Commission, Care Quality Commission, Health Protection Agency and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. Total expenditure on hospitality by these organisations is shown in the following table:

	Expenditure on hospitality (£)
2002-03	2,000
2003-03	1,000
2004-05	129,000
2005-06	186,000
2006-07	188,000
2007-08	282,000
2008-09	351,000
2009-10	429,000

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7591]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on electricity, water and heating expenditure in the Department is not available before 1999. Information on telephone services expenditure in the Department is not available before 2000.

Information for electricity, water and heating expenditure is collected centrally for a number of the Department's buildings, which are managed, centrally by the Department and NHS Connecting for Health (Connecting for Health was formed in 2005). The figures include Richmond house, Skipton house, Wellington house, Hannibal house (building vacated September 2005), and Eileen house (building vacated July 2005), Hexagon house, Prospect house, Vantage house, 1 Whitehall, Princes Exchange and 8 and 9 Hi Tech Village. Costs for other buildings are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on electricity, water and heating from 1999 to 2010 and on telephone services from 2000 to 2010 for the Department (including NHS Connecting for Health) was as follows:

£

	Electricity	*Water*	*Heating*	*Telephone services*
1999-2000	682,983	32,607	57,184	[1]—
2000-01	613,563	32,222	78,807	2,743,708
2001-02	632,791	29,010	67,097	2,904,362
2002-03	602,320	34,685	86,367	3,287,264
2003-04	631,337	28,131	78,989	4,645,502
2004-05	754,096	24,081	115,470	4,430,289
2005-06	954,523	43,144	174,364	4,932,848
2006-07	993,195	40,364	149,917	4,714,896
2007-08	1,099,407	35,142	110,240	4,087,360
2008-09	1,577,017	40,333	148,151	4,370,110
2009-10	1,256,179	45,500	156,977	3,405,017

[1] Not available.

Comprehensive information on electricity, water, heating and telephone services from all of the Department's non-departmental bodies and executive agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Limited information from 2001 to 2010 has been obtained from the General Social Care Council, Care Quality Commission, Health Protection Agency, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Monitor, Appointments Commission and the Human Tissue Authority. Total expenditure for electricity, water, heating and telephone services for these bodies is as follows:

	Electricity	*Water*	*Heating*	*Telephone services*
2001-02	1,000	[1]—	[1]—	79,000
2002-03	21,000	20,000	[1]—	191,000
2003-04	2,000	20,000	[1]—	245,000
2004-05	18,000	[1]—	[1]—	213,000
2005-06	12,000	[1]—	[1]—	215,000
2006-07	35,000	[1]—	[1]—	254,000
2007-08	57,000	[1]—	[1]—	300,000
2008-09	4,000	[1]—	[1]—	307,000
2009-10	424,000	36,000	6,000	988,000

[1] Not available.

Direct Payments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his plans are for the future of direct payments; and how much funding will be made available to local authorities to enable them to make such payments in 2010-11. [10616]

Mr Burstow: It is this Government's policy to extend the greater roll out of personal budgets, including direct payments, to give people and their carers more control and purchasing power.

Direct payments are paid in lieu of local authority services, there is therefore no separate budget for direct payments and individual local authorities would make such payments from their core funding. In light of demographic changes, we would expect an increasing number of people receiving social care to choose to receive a personal budget in the form of a direct payment.

Euthanasia

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 889-90W, on the Patient (Assisted Dying) Bill, if he place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file on *(a)* the Patient (Assisted Dying) Bill [Lords] of Session 2002-03 and *(b)* the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill [Lords]; and if he will make a statement. [10612]

Anne Milton: I have asked departmental officials to retrieve and examine the documentation requested by my hon. Friend the Member for Southend West (Mr Amess). Once this has been done I will write to my hon. Friend and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Foetal Tissue

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what organisation is responsible for overseeing the transferral of foetal tissue from clinics to researchers; what official reports have been published on this subject in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [10405]

Anne Milton: Responsibility for transferring foetal tissue to researchers lies with the organisation that supplies the tissue to the researcher. No official reports have been published on this subject in the last five years.

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foetal tissue banks are in operation; what commercial arrangements exist between clinics and foetal tissue banks or those conducting research; and if he will make a statement. [10406]

Anne Milton: Information on the number of foetal tissue banks in operation, or on the arrangements between clinics and foetal tissue banks or those conducting research, is not collected centrally.

The Human Tissue Act 2004 requires that the storage of human tissue for research, and other "scheduled purposes" is licensed. The regulator responsible for licensing is the Human Tissue Authority (HTA). However, the HTA does not have a category of "foetal tissue bank" and so could not give reliable figures for foetal tissue banks in operation. It has published a series of Codes of Practice on key activities involving human tissue, including consent (Code of Practice 1) and research (Code of Practice 9).

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many research projects are underway nationally involving foetal tissue; how much public money is being spent on these projects; and if he will make a statement. [10408]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally.

Food

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which food and food-related companies and trade associations *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have had discussions since taking office. [10971]

Anne Milton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health met with Unilever on 21 July 2010.

Food Standards Agency

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staff *(a)* turnover and *(b)* absentee rate was at each office of the Food Standards Agency in each of the last five years. [9711]

Anne Milton: The staff turnover rate for staff located at each office of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) over the last three financial years was as follows:

				Percentage
	London	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*
2009-10	11.0	3.7	2.8	0.0
2008-09	12.0	12.1	11.1	2.9
2007-08	10.8	9.3	2.7	14.6

The absentee rate for staff located at each office of the FSA over the last three financial years was as follows:

	London	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*
2009-10	4.9	5.5	7.2	7.3
2008-09	6.9	8.2	7.1	8.6
2007-08	5.0	11.7	2.4	5.9

Notes:

1. The response provided is in relation to the FSA. The table does not include staff numbers for the Meat Hygiene Service, an Executive agency of the FSA.

2. The information provided is based on Cabinet Office reporting requirements, and reflects the data provided by the agency for the last three financial years. 'Absentee rate' is calculated on the basis of average working days lost (AWDL) per employee, as per Cabinet Office reporting requirements. Data prior to 2007-08 were calculated on a calendar days' lost basis, and the equivalent AWDL rates could not be produced within the timeframe for response.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department working on nutrition have experience of working in the food industry on nutritional matters. [10208]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not held.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many meetings with Food Standards Agency officials he has had since his appointment; [10237]

(2) what meetings he has had with board members of the Food Standards Agency since his appointment. [10238]

Anne Milton: I met with the following members of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on Monday 19 July:

Lord Rooker (chairman);

Tim Smith (chief executive);

Margaret Gilmour (FSA executive board member); and

Chrissie Tsampazi (private secretary).

A visit to the FSA to meet staff has also been arranged.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what efficiency savings were made by the Food Standards Agency in each of the last three years. [10392]

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what efficiency savings have been made by the Food Standards Agency in the last three years for which figures are available. [10410]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has made significant steps towards improving value for money and has reduced gross cost in the last three years by 11% (£24 million) from £221 million in 2007-08 to £197 million in 2009-10.

This has been driven primarily by modernisation of the FSA's executive agency, the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) implemented over the last three years, reducing MHS's expenditure by 22% (£19 million) from £87 million to £68 million and headcount by 23% (426) from 1,860 to 1,434. The FSA has also undergone a significant internal restructuring to improve effectiveness and delivered savings of £5 million.

The MHS was dissolved and merged with the FSA to create a more effective and efficient FSA Operations Group in April 2010. This is expected to save more than £2 million per year ongoing.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many food incidents were dealt with by the Food Standards Agency in each of the last five years. [10393]

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many food incidents were dealt with by the Food Standards Agency in each of the last five years. [10411]

Anne Milton: The number of food incidents dealt with by the Food Standards Agency in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Number of incidents
2005	966
2006	1,343
2007	1,312
2008	1,398
2009	1,208

Further details of incidents dealt with by the agency over the last five years can be obtained from the "Annual Report of Incidents", which is available from the agency's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/incidents/monitorprevent/reportsreviews/

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance the Food Standards Agency provides to local authority food safety enforcement work. [10394]

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support the Food Standards Agency gives to local authority food safety enforcement work. [10412]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) provides grant funding to local authorities (LAs) to assist targeted food safety enforcement work. This includes the imported food and feed sampling programmes; the "fighting fund" to assist LAs in their work tackling significant food fraud; funding for LAs for preparatory work necessary for the successful local launch of the national "Food Hygiene Rating Scheme" (FHRS); and funding for Safer Food, Better Business (SFBB) to support small caterers and retailers to comply with the requirement for a food safety management system.

The FSA assists LAs through delivery of training to enforcement officers to update their knowledge and skills and to facilitate consistent enforcement. This includes training courses for the implementation of SFBB; for LAs adopting the FHRS; for enforcement officers dealing with food fraud investigations; for imported food law enforcement; auditing of food safety management systems in food premises; and food and feed standards enforcement.

The FSA also provides assistance to LAs in the form of guidance and advice on food law enforcement and a number of online resources. Additional assistance is available to LAs from the Food Fraud Advisory Unit that provides an advisory resource for LAs carrying out investigations into food fraud.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the location is of each Food Standards Agency office in the UK; and how many staff work at each office; [10396]

(2) what proportion of the staff of the Food Standards Agency take part in front-line food safety operations. [10397]

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) at what locations staff of the Food Standards Agency are employed; [10413]

(2) how many and what proportion of staff of the Food Standards Agency are involved in front-line food safety operations. [10414]

Anne Milton: For the financial year 2009-10, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) employed 1,741 staff, including staff working for the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS), an executive agency of the FSA, which was integrated into the FSA in April 2010. 814 of the staff worked in front-line food safety operations, this equating to 46.8% of the total staff employed by the FSA. The front-line staff predominantly carry out food safety inspections and enforcement in approved meat premises.

The average number of staff located at each FSA office, including those based at the time MHS office in York, was as follows:

2009-10

FSA office	*Average number of staff*
London	625
Aberdeen	75
Cardiff	35
Belfast	38
York	154

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the use of scientific evidence by the Food Standards Agency in formulating policy on *(a)* food safety and *(b)* nutrition. [10969]

Anne Milton: The Department has not assessed the use of science by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in developing policy but recognise that science is at the core of the agency's business. The Government's chief scientific adviser has assessed the use of science by the FSA, and in a review published in April 2009, considered the agency's use of science to be good and that it has come to decisions which are largely supported by the scientific community. The review also felt that further improvements could be made.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will adopt for his Department the practice of the Food Standards Agency to make all policy decisions in meetings open to the public. [10970]

Anne Milton: The Department does not have the same status as the Food Standards Agency (FSA). We do not hold board meetings in the way that the FSA does as a non-ministerial government department.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the policy of the Food Standards Agency is on the voluntary approach to improving the nutritional benefit of processed foods. [10972]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) promotes the importance of eating a healthy balanced diet. Processed foods can form part of a healthy balanced diet and it is the overall balance of the diet which is more important than the nutrient content of individual foods. A varied diet containing relatively low levels of salt and saturated fat, which includes plenty of fruit and vegetables and starchy foods, should provide all the nutrients that a healthy individual requires.

The FSA has been working with the food industry to voluntarily encourage reformulation of products to reduce the levels of salt, saturated fat, sugar and portion size providing consumers with a wide range of healthier options.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which functions of the Food Standards Agency he plans to transfer to *(a)* the Department of Health, *(b)* the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(c)* another Government Department or agency. [11608]

Anne Milton: I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS.

Food: Advertising

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations his Department has received on the marketing, advertising and promotion of food and drink high in fat, salt or sugar in non-broadcast media. [10350]

Anne Milton: None.

Food: Labelling

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 704W, on food labelling, what steps he plans to take to encourage industry to voluntarily declare the trans fat content of food products. [10336]

Anne Milton: Voluntary action by the food industry to reformulate food products and remove hydrogenated vegetable oils and fats from foods is reducing average dietary intake of trans fatty acids. The Government will support provisions in the proposed food labelling legislation currently under negotiation in Europe which would allow industry to voluntarily label their products to reflect their efforts in reducing trans fat content.

General Practitioners

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral statement of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 661-63, on the NHS White Paper, what conditions there will be on borrowing by GP consortia. [10163]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published on 12 July 2010, has set out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices.

"Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients" published on 22 July sets out further information on the intended arrangements for GP commissioning, providing the basis for fuller engagement with primary care professionals and the public. The details of the financial regime will be worked up as part of the consultation process.

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of doctors working in GP practices in England are partners in the practice where they work. [10450]

Mr Simon Burns: As at 30 September 2009, there were 35,719 general practitioners (GPs) (excluding GP registrars and retainers) in England. Of these, 28,607 (79.6%) were partners in the practice they worked in.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will have responsibility for ensuring the *(a)* comprehensive provision and *(b)* consistency of standards of mental health services under his proposals to transfer responsibility for NHS commissioning to GPs. [10910]

Mr Burstow: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July, sets out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

"Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients" published on 22 July provides further information on the intended arrangements for GP commissioning and the role of the NHS Commissioning Board. GP consortia will be responsible for commissioning the majority of NHS services, including mental health, for patients. However, with the local authority also taking a convening role, leading the joint strategic needs assessment and promoting joined up commissioning, this will provide the opportunity for local areas to further integrate mental health services.

The NHS Commissioning Board will provide a framework to support GP consortia in commissioning services, including setting commissioning guidelines on the basis of clinically approved quality standards developed with advice from NICE. The board will also be responsible for holding consortia to account for the outcomes they achieve as commissioners.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has estimated the number of GPs presently engaged in direct care of patients who will be required to work full-time on the delivery of his proposed new consortia for commissioning; and if he will make a statement. [10964]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" sets out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices.

"Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients" published on 22 July, provides further details on the intended arrangements for GP commissioning, providing the basis for fuller consultation and engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public.

Under the proposed model not all GPs have to be actively involved in every aspect of commissioning. Their predominant focus will continue to be on providing high-quality primary care to their patients. It is likely to be a smaller group of primary care practitioners who will lead the consortium and play an active role in the clinical design of local services.

GP consortia will have the freedom to decide what commissioning activities they undertake for themselves and for what activities (such as demographic analysis, contract negotiation, performance monitoring and aspects of financial management) they may choose to buy in support from external organisations, including local authorities, private and voluntary sector bodies.

Health Services: Standards

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 408W, on NHS standards, for what reason there are no plans to publish the world-class commissioning datasets nationally. [10006]

Mr Simon Burns: The data used in the world class commissioning assurance process was drawn from existing sources. There are no plans to bring these sources together for national publication.

The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010, has also set out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision making to local consortia of general practitioner practices.

Health Services: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the implications are for Wales of the proposals relating to non-devolved health-care matters contained in the NHS White Paper. [10764]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" applies only to the national health service in England.

Devolved Administrations and the Wales Office/Scotland Office/Northern Ireland Office are being consulted where the policies in the Bill have incidental or consequential implications for the devolved areas (for example, changes to arm's length bodies with remits which extend beyond England).

Hearing Impairment

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase public awareness of hearing damage arising from listening to *(a)* music at live events and *(b)* personal audio and other media devices. [10957]

Mr Burstow: The Department, advised by the Health Protection Agency, keeps under review the risks to health which may be attributed to various kinds of noise. We have no plans at present for an information campaign on the risks to the hearing posed by the use of personal music players but I will ask officials to talk to the Royal National Institute for Deaf People and to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to explore options.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospitalisations involving gun wounds there were in *(a)* the London borough of Lambeth, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 so far; [10719]

(2) how many hospitalisations involving knife wounds there were in *(a)* the London borough of Lambeth, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 so far; [10720]

(3) how many hospitalisations of individuals living in Streatham constituency involving knife wounds *(a)* there were in each year from 2005 to 2009 and *(b)* there have been in 2010; [10721]

(4) how many hospitalisations of individuals living in Streatham constituency involving gun wounds *(a)* there were in each year from 2005 to 2009 and *(b)* there have been in 2010. [10722]

Anne Milton: The number of finished admission episodes where the external cause codes were knife wound and gunshot wound have been provided. This information has been broken down by England, London SHA and Lambeth primary care trust of residence, 2005-06 to 2008-09 and 2009-10 April to February provisional data. We have provided you with data for assaults as well as other hospitalisations by knife and gun wound (see clinical codes footnote for clarification of ICD-10 external cause codes used).

We are unable to provide data on hospitalisation in the London borough of Lambeth or for individuals living in Streatham constituency area as we do not hold information at these geographic levels.

Number of finished admission episodes[1] where the external cause code was knife wound or gunshot wound[2], in England, London SHA and Lambeth PCT of residence[3], 2005-06 to 2008-09 and 2009-10 April to February provisional data[4], activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector[*]

England

	Knife wound (assault)	*Gun wound (assault)*	*Knife wound (other)*	*Gun wound (other)*
2009-10 (April to February)[4]	*4,303*	*199*	*11,884*	*826*
2008-09	4,914	199	12,381	921
2007-08	5,239	222	11,899	959
2006-07	5,720	229	11,513	1,086
2005-06	5,496	225	11,052	1,008

London SHA[5]

	Knife wound (assault)	*Gun wound (assault)*	*Knife wound (other)*	*Gun wound (other)*
2009-10 (April to February)[4]	*1,099*	*77*	*1,467*	*144*
2008-09	1,050	54	1,381	137
2007-08	1,267	64	1,447	146
2006-07	1,395	52	1,417	157
2005-06	1,381	76	1,380	178

Lambeth PCT[5]

	Knife wound (assault)	*Gun wound (assault)*	*Knife wound (other)*	*Gun wound (other)*
2009-10 (April to February)[4]	*70*	*8*	*56*	*18*
2008-09	58	6	31	9
2007-08	86	*	49	13
2006-07	85	7	60	15

	Lambeth PCT[5]			
	Knife wound (assault)	*Gun wound (assault)*	*Knife wound (other)*	*Gun wound (other)*
2005-06	67	11	52	12

[1] *Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *Cause code*

A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in HES. Codes in italics are those used to define assault.

Knife wound:

W26 Contact with knife, sword or dagger
X78 Intentional self-harm by sharp object
X99 Assault by sharp object
Y28 Contact with sharp object, undetermined intent

The above four codes identifies 'any' sharp object, and therefore includes (but is not limited to) knife.

Gunshot wounds:

W32 Handgun discharge
W33 Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
W34 Discharge from other and unspecified firearms
X72 Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge
X73 Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X74 Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm discharge
X93 Assault by handgun discharge
X94 Assault by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X95 Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge
Y22 Handgun discharge, undetermined intent
Y23 Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y24 Other and unspecified firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y35.0 Legal intervention involving firearm discharge

[3] *SHA/PCT of residence*

The strategic health authority (SHA) or primary care trust (PCT) containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

[4] *Provisional data*

The data is provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.

[5] *NHS Re-organisation*

In July 2006, the NHS reorganised strategic health authorities (SHA) and primary care trusts (PCT) in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result, data from 2006-07 onwards is not directly comparable with previous years. We mapped the current London SHA to the following SHAs prior to 2006-07: North Central London, North East London, North West London, South East London and South West London. Lambeth PCT remained the same during the PCT changes.

Data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Small numbers

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total, an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.

Activity included

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff time at accident and emergency departments in each strategic health authority area spent on treating victims of domestic violence; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of such activity in each of the last 10 years. [11782]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect this information centrally; with no estimate being made on the proportion of staff time spent or the cost of accident and emergency departments treating victims of domestic violence.

The way in which the national health service manages the treatment of its patients, including victims of domestic violence, is a local operational matter. What is important is that high-quality urgent and emergency care services are provided that are both clinically appropriate and responsive to the needs of the patient.

IVF

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the future level of provision of IVF treatment by the NHS under his proposals for changes to the structure of the NHS; [10355]

(2) what plans he has for the determination of criteria for the provision of IVF treatment by the NHS under his proposals for changes to the structure of the NHS; [10356]

(3) how many patients have received NHS funding for IVF and IUI treatment in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley area in each of the last five years; and how many of those patients received funding for more than one course of treatment. [10357]

Anne Milton: It is for local commissioners, currently primary care trusts, to determine how best to meet the health needs of their local population. In respect of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and other fertility treatments and services, there are no plans to move away from local determination in the future.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) provides guidelines for the national health service on treatments that should be funded. The NICE fertility guidelines recommend that women aged between 23 and 39, if they fulfil the criteria, should be offered three cycles of IVF treatment funded by the NHS. NICE has just commenced a review of these guidelines and it is intended that the review will be completed in October 2012.

In June 2009, the Department published a commissioning aid to help the NHS to assess need locally for fertility treatment, learn about infertility treatment techniques and monitor uptake of services. The Department also supported the patient interest group, Infertility Network UK, to develop standardised access criteria as a guide for those commissioning NHS fertility services.

Information is not collected centrally on the number of patients who have received NHS funded fertility treatments in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley areas.

Kidney Patients

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many kidney disease patients are receiving home dialysis in *(a)* England and *(b)* South Swindon; [10769]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* home and *(b)* hospital dialysis for kidney disease patients in the latest period for which figures are available. [11013]

Mr Simon Burns: The average annual cost of hospital haemodialysis, calculated from reference costs published in July 2009, is £28,860, peritoneal dialysis £20,805 and home haemodialysis £17,264. This assumes that people on home haemodialysis receive four sessions of dialysis per week compared with thrice weekly dialysis in hospital.

Information about the number of kidney disease patients who are receiving home dialysis is not available in the format requested. Data collected by the UK Renal Registry show that in December 2008 there were 3,564 people in England on peritoneal dialysis at home and 441 people in England on home haemodialysis. In the Swindon primary care trust area there were 19 people on peritoneal dialysis and one person on home haemodialysis.

Maternity Services: Standards

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve standards of post-natal care. [10761]

Anne Milton: The Department has supported four royal colleges (the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Royal College of Midwives, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and Royal College of Anaesthetists) to develop a single integrated set of clinical standards covering the care pathway from pre-pregnancy to parenthood (June 2008). This gives the commissioners specific standards to use to negotiate service provision and helps to ensure the development of high quality maternity care, including post-natal care.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published clinical guidelines on post-natal care which sets out the core care that women and babies should be offered during the first six to eight weeks after the birth. Every mother and baby will have an individual plan of care which may include additional care to that in the core guidance.

The Government aim to offer a better experience for women and their partners, with more scope to them to exercise choice across wider range of settings and services and with wider options through the crucial ante and post-natal periods. The Government are working to provide a real choice in maternity services, enabling women-centred care, and an experience that is as normal as possible and provides parents with confidence about the transition to parenthood.

White Paper 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS' sets out Government's strategy for the national health service—with intention to create an NHS which is much more responsive to patients, achieves better outcomes with increased autonomy and clear accountability at every level. With regard to maternity Government will extend maternity choice (although recognising that not all choices will be appropriate or safe for all women) and help make safe, informed choices throughout pregnancy and childbirth by developing new provider networks.

We recognise the important role that health visitors can play in the early years and announced in the coalition agreement that we will fund an extra 4,200 Sure Start health visitors. Health visitors provide the link between Sure Start children's centres and the NHS. They will need to work across general practice and children's centres, working closely with maternity services and other agencies concerned with children and families.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 481W, on NHS: databases, if he will collect data on the number of occasions on which information relating to a patient has been requested by a doctor other than the doctor with whom the patient is registered as part of the summary care records scheme. [10758]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no current plans to do so.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence he took into account in his assessment of the need for a centralised summary care records database. [10796]

Mr Simon Burns: We believe there is a need for both patients and clinicians to be able to access patient records in an electronic form. This is part of our thinking about making information transparent and available, while involving patients in decisions about their health care. The experience in Scotland, which has had an electronic summary similar to the summary care record (SCR) operating for a number of years, shows the continuing benefits it provides to patients receiving emergency and out-of-hours care.

However, effective use of the SCR depends on patients and doctors feeling an ownership of the records. We believe the current processes that are in place need to be reviewed to ensure that both the information that patients receive, and the process by which they opt-out, are as clear and simple as possible. In addition, should patients choose to optout they must be able to do so as early in the process as is feasible. Foremost in our minds is the need to ensure the security of the data contained in the record.

We intend to review the content of the record and consider whether we can improve the process whereby patients can optout. Strategic health authorities have been informed that no further information letters should be sent out to patients about the SCR until after the review has concluded.

Mental Health Services

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his proposals to increase provision for psychological therapies will include therapies for people affected by severe mental illness; and if he will make a statement. [10751]

Mr Burstow: The Government set out in "The Coalition: our programme for government" a commitment to ensure greater access to talking therapies to reduce long-term costs for the national health service. This is a clear public health priority for us and we are currently working to identify how best to take it forward.

Revised National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on schizophrenia was published in March 2009. This outlines the best way to treat and manage adults with schizophrenia in primary and secondary care. The guidance recommends that treatments such as cognitive behavioural therapy should be offered to all people with schizophrenia.

Psychological therapies can be a key element of the treatment of people with severe and enduring mental health conditions, particularly when these conditions are experienced alongside depression and anxiety disorders. In these cases, the delivery of cognitive behavioural therapy and other NICE-compliant therapies is the recommended treatment.

Services for these clients are largely provided by psychology departments in specialist mental health trusts. The implementation of Improving access to Psychological Therapies services for people in community settings with mild to moderate conditions can reduce the number of referrals to specialist mental health trusts and enable them to focus on providing services to those with severe and enduring mental illness.

General practitioners or consultant psychiatrists can prescribe any medicine or treatment which they consider to be necessary for treating NHS patients, including NICE-approved treatments, provided that the local primary care trust or NHS trust agree to supply it on the NHS. Clinicians are responsible for deciding on the most appropriate form of treatment for their patients, and in doing so they are expected to take NICE guidance fully into account. The Department does not become involved in making clinical decisions.

Muscular Dystrophy

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the effects of implementing the recommendations set out in International Standards of Care for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy on NHS patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy; [10360]

(2) what steps his Department takes to ensure the provision of care to *(a)* children and *(b)* young men with Duchenne muscular dystrophy; what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such provision; what information his Department for benchmarking purposes holds on the provision of such services in Denmark; and if he will publish a national framework on standards of care provision for those with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. [10376]

Mr Burstow: It is the responsibility of health and care professionals, working in conjunction with patients and their families, to arrange the most appropriate health and social care for those living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). The National Service Framework for long-term conditions (the NSF) provides an overview how this care should be provided. The 11 quality requirements of the NSF are compatible with more condition specific standards of care, such as the international TREAT-NMD recommendations for DMD. We have made no assessment of the effectiveness of the provision of care for those with DMD.

We have no plans to publish a national strategy for the care of DMD. The NSF's quality requirements apply equally to DMD as they do for any other neuromuscular condition. The NSF covers all aspects of care from assessment, through diagnosis, information/education, treatment and support, to end of life decisions and palliative care. We have no plans to assess the effects of implementing the recommendations set out in international standards of care for those living with DMD.

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to provide ring-fenced funding for research on Duchenne muscular dystrophy to the MDEX consortium. [10375]

Mr Burstow: The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the Medical Research Council (MRC) is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Both organisations welcome applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals submitted.

The researchers who lead the consortium have received funding from the Department and the MRC. They are aware of the public funding routes open to them and how to apply for support for any proposals for further research.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether interested parties will be included in the process to produce interventional procedures guidance by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; [10176]

(2) what mechanism is in place for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop guidance on interventional procedures. [10181]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested can be found in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) interventional procedures methods and process guides, which are available on the NICE website at:

Methods guide:

www.nice.org.uk/media/70C/85/IPMethodGuideforweb180607.pdf

Process guide:

www.nice.org.uk/media/1E0/17/IPProgrammeProcessGuideJan09.pdf

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on how many interventional procedures the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have published guidance as a *(a)* novel and *(b)* reviewed procedure; [10177]

(2) how many times guidance by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on interventional procedures has been challenged by resolution requests to date; [10178]

(3) what percentage of resolution requests from the development of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) interventional procedures guidance have asked NICE for a complete reassessment of the procedure; [10179]

(4) whether a mechanism is in place for the peer review of overview documents produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence intellectual property programme teams; [10180]

(5) how much time on average members of the Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee spent on analysing the overview document prior to drafting provisional recommendations in the latest period for which figures are available. [10182]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held by the Department. I have asked the chief executive of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to write to the hon. Member with this information.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) by what mechanisms draft guidance already published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Medical Technology Advisory Committee will be amended to take into account the consultation on process and methods guides for the evaluation pathway due to end on 10 September 2010; [10434]

(2) whether his Department had discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the Medical Technology Advisory Committee's publication of draft guidance before the consultation on process and methods guides for the evaluation pathway has been completed. [10435]

Mr Simon Burns: The operation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) Medical Technology Advisory Committee, its draft medical technologies guidance and its consultation on its methods and processes guides, are matters for NICE.

The Department understands that the draft medical technologies guidance currently out for public consultation will be revised by NICE in light of comments received.

The final methods and processes guides will be finalised following a separate consultation, which is also currently taking place.

If any major inconsistencies were to emerge as a result of these two consultation exercises, NICE has the option to review the draft medical technologies guidance. NICE'S board will be responsible for the final sign-off of the methods and processes guides and is ultimately responsible for signing off medical technologies guidance.

NHS Commissioning Board

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the selection process will be for the members of the NHS Commissioning Board. [9871]

Mr Simon Burns: We intend to introduce legislation to establish the NHS Commissioning Board later this year. The Health Bill will set out further details about the membership of the Board and the process for making appointments.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Membership

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether foundation trust board members may be appointed on an unpaid basis; and if he will make a statement. [10775]

Mr Simon Burns: Under schedule 7, paragraph 18 of the National Health Service Act 2006 it is for each NHS foundation trust (NHSFT) to determine the remuneration for each of the members of its board of directors, both executive and non-executive. Therefore it may be the case that an NHSFT may agree to appoint an unpaid director.

NHS: Essex

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary bill for *(a)* administrative staff and *(b)* managers in each NHS trust in Essex was in each year since 1997; and what proportion of the total salary bill in each trust that figure represents. [10156]

Anne Milton: This information has been placed in the Library. The Department holds accounts information at organisation level for seven years, therefore 2002-03 is the earliest period for which figures are available.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the debt of each NHS trust in Essex is. [10157]

Anne Milton: Information on the total amount owed by national health service trusts in Essex in respect of bank overdrafts, current and long-term loans, obligations under finance leases and private finance initiative (PFI) arrangements, is shown in the following table.

NHS trust	*Debt as at 31 March 2008-09 (£000)*
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	8,040

NHS trust	*Debt as at 31 March 2008-09 (£000)*
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	8,208
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust[1]	—

[1] Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust became a foundation trust on 1 May 2008, consequently any debt held by the trust will be reported in the accounts of the new foundation trust.

Note:

'Debt' can be interpreted in a number of ways in relation to the finances of NHS trusts. We have interpreted 'debt' to mean the total amount reported by each NHS trust in their balance sheet in respect of bank overdrafts, loans, finance leases and PFI arrangements. These are the items most readily identified with the term 'debt' in accounting terminology.

Source:

NHS Trust audited summarisation schedules 2008-09.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what administrative and management costs each NHS trust in Essex incurred in each year since 1997; and what proportion of each trust's total expenditure on such costs this figure represents. [10161]

Anne Milton: The information requested has been placed in the Library. The Department holds accounts information at organisation level for seven years, therefore 2002-03 is the earliest period for which figures are available.

NHS: Finance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to achieve the proposed £20 billion efficiency savings in the NHS. [9870]

Mr Simon Burns: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" (Cm 7881) set out our commitment of releasing up to £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2014, which will be reinvested to support improvements in quality and outcomes. The Department is working with national health service organisations through the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention initiative to identify how efficiencies can be driven and services redesigned to achieve the twin aims of improved quality and efficiency.

In order to divert more resources to the front-line, NHS management costs will be reduced by more than 45%. The costs of bureaucracy will be further reduced by radically reducing the NHS functions of the Department and reducing the number of its arm's length bodies by at least one third.

Work has also started on implementing efficiency improvements in front-line care, for example by improving care for stroke patients, the 'productive ward' programme, increased self-care and the use of new technologies for people with long-term conditions.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral statement of 12 July 2010, *Official Report,* columns 661-63, on the NHS White Paper, what plans he has for the debt held by *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts. [10160]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published on 12 July 2010, has set out the Government's proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision making to local consortia of general practitioner practices. "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients", published on 22 July, provides further information on the intended arrangements; and the details of the financial regime will be worked up in light of the consultation process.

NHS: Public Sector

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he took in formulating his proposals to change NHS commissioning of the likely effects on the prospects for delivery of the Total Place programme of the implementation of those proposals. [10909]

Mr Simon Burns: On 22 July the Government published two documents: 'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients', and 'Liberating the NHS: Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health', setting out our proposals in more detail. These will provide the basis for fuller consultation and engagement with primary care professionals, including general practitioners (GPs), patients and the public. We will then bring forward legislation in the forthcoming Health Bill.

We anticipate that local authorities will have a lead role in determining the strategy and allocation of any local application of Total Place concepts under the new arrangements.

Working alongside other partners, in particular GPs, local authorities will have a new role contributing to effective joint action to promote the health and well-being of local communities.

In addition to taking these steps to ensure that integrated working is at the heart of a local service delivery, the Government will work with the Local Government Association to understand the potential benefits of place-based budgets through the spending review period.

Nutrition: Pregnant Women

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has received advice from the Government chief scientific adviser on the effect on lifetime mental and physical health of maternal nutrition in the last 12 months; [11155]

(2) whether his Department has received advice from the Government chief scientific adviser on the effect on lifetime mental and physical health of maternal nutrition in the last 12 months. [11156]

Anne Milton: The Department has not received advice from the Government chief scientific adviser on the effect on lifetime mental and physical health of maternal nutrition in the last 12 months.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the adequacy of out-of-work benefits in providing for a healthy diet for women *(a)* before and *(b)* during pregnancy. [11157]

Anne Milton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health regularly meets with his ministerial colleagues to discuss a variety of issues.

The Department has an existing statutory scheme, Healthy Start, that offers a means-tested nutritional safety net to pregnant women and very young children in very low-income unemployed families in a way that encourages breastfeeding and healthy eating. Healthy Start provides vouchers that can be put towards the cost of milk, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and infant formula milk at any participating retailer. Babies supported by the scheme get two £3.10 vouchers per week, and pregnant women and other children under four get one £3.10 voucher a week.

Palliative Care

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the quality of palliative care in England. [10351]

Mr Burstow: The Department is due to publish the second end-of-life care Strategy annual report from Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Clinical Director for end-of-life care. The report will acknowledge the progress made to date since publication of the strategy in 2008 as well as highlighting the challenges ahead to help improve end-of-life care for all adults in England.

Pregnancy: Death

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 14 to 16, *(b)* 17 to 21, *(c)* 22 to 24, *(d)* 25 to 30, *(e)* 31 to 35 and *(f)* 36 to 40 years old died from pregnancy-related diseases in each year since 1980. [10550]

Anne Milton: This information is not available centrally in the form requested. The following table sets out registered deaths in the United Kingdom with the underlying cause classified as maternal deaths.

Registered deaths with underlying cause given as a maternal death (ICD9 630-676, ICD10 O00-O99)

Triennium	*Number*
1985 to 1987	174
1988 to 1990	171
1991 to 1993	150
1994 to 1996	158
1997 to 1999	128
2000 to 2002	136
2003 to 2005	149
2006 to 2008	155

Note:

The figures were produced by the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (CMACE) in its triennial publication 'Saving Mothers Lives' (previously-known as 'Why Mothers Die'). The conditions included ICD9 630-679 and ICD10 O00-O99, codes which are "complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium".

Source:

Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plan to make changes to the criteria for eligibility for free prescriptions following the report from Professor Gilmore; and if he will make a statement. [11503]

Mr Simon Burns: Decisions on any future changes to the system of prescription charges and exemptions in England would need to be taken in the context of the next spending review, which is due to report in the autumn. In the meantime, there are no plans to make any changes to the current list of conditions which are exempt from prescription charges.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will have responsibility for *(a)* strategic planning in the NHS and *(b)* reducing health inequalities under his proposals to end primary care trusts. [10922]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July, set out the Government's plans for devolving power and responsibility for commissioning national health service services. The majority of NHS services will be commissioned in future by local general practitioners' (GP) consortia, which will be held to account by an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

Strategic planning will take place at a number of levels. The White Paper states that the Secretary of State will maintain responsibility for setting the legislative and policy framework, including developing and publishing national service strategies that will enable the roles of NHS, public health and social care services to be better co-ordinated. The NHS Commissioning Board will develop commissioning guidelines which promote joint working across health, public health and social care, to support GP consortia in commissioning services locally.

Local authorities will lead the joint strategic needs assessment locally, to ensure coherent and co-ordinated commissioning strategies, working together with commissioners of NHS services. Groups of GP consortia will have the freedom to pool their resources to fund services for their collective populations, and to commission in partnership with local authorities to meet common objectives.

The NHS Commissioning Board will have a duty to promote equality and tackle inequalities in health-care access and outcomes. GP consortia will also have a duty to promote equality. The new public health service will also have an important role through the ring-fenced public health budget, to include a new "health premium" designed to promote action to improve population-wide health and reduce health inequalities.

Self-harm

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the websites of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* NHS Direct include accessible, accurate and user-friendly information for (i) service users, (ii) carers, (iii) family members and (iv) professionals on the (A) signs and symptoms of those who exhibit evidence of self-harm and (B) signs of risk of self-harm in the future; and if he will make a statement; [10645]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that the websites of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* NHS Direct include accessible, accurate and user-friendly information for (i) service users, (ii) carers, (iii) family members and (iv) professionals on the (A) signs and (B) prevention of suicide; and if he will make a statement; [10646]

Mr Burstow: All information available on:

www.dh.gov.uk

meets with the requirements for accessibility set by the Central Office of Information. All public sector websites must conform to these guidelines from the point of publication. More information on this is available at:

http://coi.gov.uk/guidance.php?page=131

The advice that NHS Direct provides through its web and telephone services complies with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on suicide and self-harm. NHS Direct involves patient groups, service users, health care professionals and third sector organisations such as the Princess Trust for Carers in the development and regular review of its services. Also, all front-line NHS Direct staff are also trained to recognise the signs and symptoms of depression, self harm and suicide.

NHS Choices:

www.nhs.uk

dedicates significant sections of the website to providing citizens with information on both suicide and self-harm. All information is presented with accessibility in mind and is national health service accredited as evidence based.

Streptococcus: Babies

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to prevent group B streptococcal infections in newborn babies. [10322]

Anne Milton: The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has a Green-top guideline, Prevention of Early onset Group B Streptococcal Disease, which provides guidance for obstetricians midwives and neonatologists on the prevention of early-onset neonatal group B streptococcal (GBS) disease. RCOG also produced parallel patient information, Preventing GBS infection in newborn babies (information for you), for women and their families who are expecting a baby or are planning to get pregnant. Advice from that guidance features on the NHS Choices website and in the pregnancy book, currently given out to all pregnant women in England.

Suicide

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who have presented at hospital accident and emergency departments having attempted suicide and who have been able to access clinically trained psychiatric staff at the accident and emergency department; and if he will make a statement; [10649]

(2) what mechanism is in place to ensure that the risk assessment of those who present at hospital accident and emergency departments as a result of attempted suicide is *(a)* evidence-based and *(b)* clinically approved; and if he will make a statement; [10650]

(3) what mechanism is in place to ensure that the risk assessment of those who present at hospital accident and emergency departments as a result of self-harm is *(a)* evidence-based and *(b)* clinically approved; and if he will make a statement. [10651]

Mr Burstow: The National Health Service Information Centre for health and social care's current mandated method of capturing treatments or investigations during an accident and emergency (A&E) attendance is the use of the code list stored in the Accident and Emergency Attendance Commissioning Dataset. This is a list of numbers associated to a particular treatment or investigation. Diagnosis, investigation, and treatment data in A&E is not sufficiently complete to perform analysis yet.

Primary care trusts have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate services are provided to their populations, including mental health services. Providing appropriate resources to meet local demand and ensuring that risk assessments are made of those who present at A&E as a result of self-harm or suicide attempts is therefore a matter for the NHS to manage locally.

Clinical and non-clinical staff who have contact with people who self-harm or attempt suicide in any setting should be provided with appropriate training to equip them to understand and care for people who have self-harmed or attempted suicide.

The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence guideline on self-harm covers:

the care people who harm themselves can expect to receive from health care professionals in hospital and out of hospital;

the information they can expect to receive;

what they can expect from treatment; and

what kinds of services best help people who harm themselves.

These guidelines are issued to clinical staff.

Swine Flu

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the decision to implement a mass vaccination policy to protect against influenza A(H1N1); [9828]

(2) what assessment he has made of the proportionality of the measures taken by his Department in response to the perceived level of risks from influenza A(H1N1); [9829]

(3) what steps he plans to take to increase levels of public understanding about the characteristics of pandemics; [9830]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's communications with the public and the press on the influenza A(H1N1) pandemic. [9831]

Anne Milton: I understand that the decision to implement a mass vaccination strategy was taken in accordance with the best available scientific advice provided by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies and the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

The four nations commissioned an independent review into the United Kingdom response to the 2009 influenza pandemic, chaired by Dame Deidre Hine, which issued its report on 1 July 2010. Dame Deirdre concluded that the preparations for a pandemic were "soundly based in terms of value for money" and the response to swine flu was "proportionate and effective". This publication can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/ccs/news/100701-flu-pandemic-review.aspx

Dame Deidre also reviewed the effectiveness of the Government's communications and concluded that there was

> "strong evidence that the government's communication strategy was successful in building public awareness of pandemic influenza".

It did however recommend that we explore increasing public awareness of the characteristics of a pandemic.

The Department and Cabinet Office are currently reviewing the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic (2007), and the Government will take these recommendations into consideration in planning for the future to ensure that we remain one of the best prepared countries in the world for any future pandemic.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advanced Manufacturing Park

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who will have responsibility for the funding of the Advanced Manufacturing Park after the abolition of Yorkshire Forward. [10911]

Mr Prisk: The future of Yorkshire Forward's stake in the Advanced Manufacturing Park will be considered alongside other RDA commitments and assets as part of a transition plan leading up to the RDA's abolition. The forthcoming spending review will inform future funding allocations.

Agriculture: Research

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research projects on *(a)* soil science, *(b)* traditional plant breeding, *(c)* crop agronomy, *(d)* plant physiology, *(e)* plant pathology, *(f)* environmental microbiology, *(g)* weed science, *(h)* entomology, *(i)* crop irrigation, *(j)* nitrogen fixation, *(k)* soil phosphorous, *(l)* soil erosion, *(m)* pollinating insects and *(n)* integrated pest management have been funded by (i) each research council and (ii) the Science and Technology Facilities Council since 1997; what the (A) research topic, (B) start date, (C) cost and (D) project code was of each such project; which the lead institution was in each case; and what such projects have been completed to date. [8038]

Mr Willetts: The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) has undertaken research into areas *(a)* to *(n)*, but the cost of collating all of the information in the form requested would be disproportionate.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has funded two projects on integrated pest management. Copies of the details have been placed in the Library.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) funded a project on soil science. We will place details of the project funded by the MRC in the Libraries of the House.

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) has funded 13 projects, copies of the details have been placed in the Library. In addition NERC allocated £6 million to the Global Nitrogen Enrichment programme (GANE), funded jointly with SEERAD and the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which may have included research in this area.

NERC has also provided funding for soil erosion via its research centre the British Geological Survey (BGS), copies of the details have been placed in the Library.

In addition NERC has supported insect pollination via the Insect Pollinators Initiative, which is supported by BBSRC, DEFRA, the Scottish Government and the Wellcome Trust with a total budget of up to £10 million (this includes BBSRC £2.55 million, NERC £1.55 million, Scottish Government £0.55 million, Wellcome Trust £2.5 million and DEFRA £2.55 million).

http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/opportunities/2009/insect-pollinators-initiative.aspx

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) did not fund any projects of the type listed.

Apprentices: Employment

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he made of the proportion of former apprentices who found employment within a year of completing an apprenticeship in the latest period for which figures are available. [11227]

Mr Hayes: An apprenticeship is a work-based programme and an apprentice must have a job or a work placement as a condition of completing their apprenticeship framework. Many will already be in permanent employment prior to the end of their apprenticeship. Management information on the subsequent employment of apprentices is not available.

We collect information about the destinations of learners into learning and employment through the Framework for Excellence (FfE), which will provide prospective learners and employers with performance information to help inform the choices they make about learning and training. We intend to include learner destination information at provider level when we publish FfE data as official statistics later this year.

Apprentices: Per Capita Costs

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average cost to the public purse was of an apprenticeship place in the latest period for which figures are available. [11225]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education allocate funding to the Skills Funding Agency for the provision of apprenticeships in England. Spending on 16-18 and adult apprenticeships for 2008-09 financial years is given in the following table.

Apprenticeship expenditure 2008-09—England

	£ million
16-18 apprenticeships	630
19+ apprenticeships	347
Total	977

Source:
LSC Annual Report and Accounts for 2008-09.

It is not possible to provide a meaningful average cost to the public purse of an apprenticeship. The public cost of delivering an apprenticeship varies significantly depending on the industry in which the apprenticeship framework is being delivered; length of stay on the programme; whether the framework is at level 2 or 3; and whether the participant is in the 16-18, 19-25 or 25+ age group.

For example the SFA estimates that it costs £2,749 to deliver a level 2 adult apprenticeship framework in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools and £4,083 to deliver the level 3 equivalent framework. Between industries the difference in estimated costs can be more marked. SFA estimate that the cost of delivering a level 3 adult apprenticeship in clock and watch repair is £13,409 but the cost of an adult apprenticeship at the same level in business and administration is £3,327.

Business: Government Assistance

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Bedford constituency have received loans from the enterprise finance guarantee scheme in the last 12 months. [11427]

Mr Prisk: The enterprise finance guarantee came into operation in January 2009. As of 21 July 2010, in the Bedford constituency 16 businesses have drawn down loans totalling £1.22 million.

Business: Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will introduce a one-in, two-out policy to reduce the number of regulations on business. [8360]

Mr Prisk: The Government are introducing a One-in, One-out rule to cap the cost of regulation to business.

I am satisfied that the one-in, one-out rule as it currently stands will start to bring about the radical change required to the culture of regulation in Whitehall.

While regulation is necessary to protect consumers, employees and the environment, Government should ensure that all regulation is proportionate and targeted.

Cairn Energy

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Government of Greenland on the plans of Cairn Energy or its subsidiary Capricorn Oil Limited to drill for oil off the coast of Greenland. [11903]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with the Government of Greenland on this matter.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with the chief executive of *(a)* Cairn Energy and *(b)* other representatives of Cairn Energy or its subsidiary Capricorn Oil Ltd on its plans to drill for oil off the coast of Greenland since July 2009; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings. [11914]

Mr Prisk: The body within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills that deals with the UK oil and gas industry and its international interests is the energy team of UK Trade and Investment, which has had no discussions with Cairn Energy or Capricorn Oil Ltd on this matter in the period since July 2009.

Copyright: Music

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to bring forward proposals to extend the period for which musicians may receive royalties for their recordings. [9890]

Mr Davey: Policy responsibility for intellectual property rests with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. The lengths of copyright term (which determines the period over which musicians receive royalties), are harmonised across the EU, and the Government have no plans to put forward their own proposals.

Corus: Resignations

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 522-3, what communications *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department has had with (i) Tata Steel Europe and (ii) Corus Europe consequent on the resignation of Kirby Adams as Chief Executive of Corus. [9453]

Mr Prisk: There has been no specific contact with Corus and Tata Steel Europe regarding the announcement that Kirby Adams will be stepping down from his role as chief executive. The Department has a constructive working relationship with Corus and Tata Steel Europe which I am sure will continue under Mr Adams' successor, Dr Karl-Ulrich Kohler when he takes up post on 1 October 2010.

Credit: Regulation

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will commission research into the effects of imposing a cap on the rate of interest chargeable by lenders in the pawnbroking, payday loans and home credit markets. [10725]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has recently completed a review of high cost credit products, including pawnbroking, payday loans and home collected credit. As part of this review, the OFT considered the possible introduction of price controls for high-cost credit. The review concluded that price controls would not be a suitable solution to the concerns that the OFT identified in the sector.

I recently announced a joint BIS and HM Treasury review of consumer credit and personal insolvency and this Department will be issuing a formal call for evidence following the summer recess. Among other things, the call for evidence will give industry and consumer groups the opportunity to provide evidence on how they think the findings and recommendations of the OFT review should be taken forward, including their findings on interest rate caps.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9245]

Mr Davey: The Department does not hold any central information on the time taken by contractors (tier one suppliers) to pay their sub-contractors (tier two suppliers). However, we are working closely with tier one suppliers to ensure that tier two suppliers receive payment promptly by:

reviewing payment performance as part of the standard contract management process;

ensuring tier one suppliers include in the relevant contract a provision which requires the tier one supplier to pay the tier two supplier within 30 days; and

enabling tier two suppliers to report any concerns they feel have not been adequately addressed direct to the Department or via the Office of Government Commerce's supplier feedback process.

BIS remains committed to pay its own invoices within five working days and continues to work closely with its suppliers to ensure that the benefits are felt by all in the supply chain.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what budget his Department has allocated for consultancy in 2010-11. [5930]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has allocated a budget of £7,359,000 for consultancy in 2010-11.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7330]

Mr Davey: The ICT expenditure for the Department can be summarised as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
1998/99	12.1
1999/2000	15.0
2000/01	30.0
2001/02	32.0
2002/03	41.0
2003/04	41.9
2004/05	42.2
2005/06	44.0
2006/07	43.4
2007/08	41.1
2008/09	40.0
2009/10	38.9

Notes:
1. No information is available for the year 1997/98.
2. Before the award of the PFI contract in 1999, central records of IT expenditure included only central corporate infrastructure.
3. There was a change in the Department's accounting system during 2003/04.
4. *The information from 2004/05 to 2009/10 has been taken from the* Department's annual accounts and includes UKTI.
5. There were a number of machinery of government changes from 2005 which distort direct comparisons year on year.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Information for the non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on information and communication technology in each year since 1997.

Information on such expenditure prior to 2001 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Since 2001, the National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, spent the following on information and communication technology:

	Spend on ICT (£)
2001	95,415.65
2002	109,519.53
2003	85,959.87
2004	252,016.83
2005	167,968.77
2006	218,189.33
2007	224,804.39
2008	316,009.21
2009	262,490.74

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7330), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on information and communication technology in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have spent £4,718,000 on information and communication technology costs.

Letter from John Alty, dated 8 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent the following amounts on information and communication technology.

	£000
2009/10	2,061
2008/09	3,113
2007/08	2,778
2006/07	2,389

	£000
2005/06	2,417
2004/05	1,849
2003/04	3,155
2002/03	2,040
2001/02	1,928
2000/01	3,115
1999/2000	3,094

Figures for earlier years are not available in the timescales.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 14 July 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has no accounting records on this expenditure for the years 1997 to 2003, as these records are kept for 7 years.

The expenditure for the financial years 2003/04 to 2009/10 are shown in the table below:

Financial year	*ICT spend (£)*
2003-04	6,860,581
2004-05	12,033,183
2005-06	11,986,483
2006-07	13,611,697
2007-08	20,683,042
2008-09	28,072,769
2009-10	25,411,213

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, UIN 7330 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. The amount Companies House has spent on Information and Communication Technology for each year for which figures are available are as follows:

Year	*£*
2009/10	9,702,020
2008/09	9,228,630
2007/08	8,567,584
2006/07	6,117,779
2005/06	6,605,290

These figures exclude capital expenditure.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7437]

Mr Davey: For the Department, information for the financial years 2002/03 and earlier can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However, the information for financial years 2003/04 onwards is as follows:

	£
2003/04	45,269
2004/05	171,457
2005/06	267,191
2006/07	136,536
2007/08	48,380
2008/09	91,679
2009/10	98,344
April 2010 to June 2010	14,560

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Information on the Department's non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from John Alty, dated 23 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 06th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

While the IPO does provide refreshments at some meetings there has been no formal hospitality spend in the period.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 16 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 6 July 2010, UIN 7437 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. In each year for which figures are available Companies House spent the following on hospitality:

	Hospitality (£)
2002/03	1,756
2003/04	1,861
2004/05	1,963
2005/06	2,507
2006/07	2,218
2007/08	2,369
2008/09	1,926
2009/10	1,501

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 July 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills spent the following amounts on hospitality since 1997 as reported in The Insolvency Service Annual Report and Accounts for the relevant financial year:

	Amount (£000)
1997/98	8
1998/99	11
1999/2000	13
2000/01	12
2001/02	10
2002/03	7
2003/04	7
2004/05	6
2005/06	'14
2006/07	4
2007/08	0

	Amount (£000)
2008/09	9
2009/10	[2]0

[1] The figures for 2005/06 were restated to include the merged costs of Companies Investigation Branch. Figures from 2005/2006 onwards include both The Insolvency Service and Companies Investigation Branch.

[2] Draft unaudited

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on hospitality in each year since 1997.

Information on such expenditure prior to January 2001 is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory spent the following on hospitality, primarily meals and refreshments for visitors to our offices in Teddington:

	£
2001	4,917.85
2002	5,605.06
2003	6,404.66
2004	2,840.90
2005	1,827.34
2006	2,958.77
2007	8,670.72
2008	9,696.59
2009	21,826.69

The substantially high figure in 2009 reflects the fact that responsibility for the National Measurement System and its extensive network of advisory groups transferred to the Agency in April of that year.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 13 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 July (UIN 7437), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on hospitality in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have not spent any money on hospitality.

Departmental Public Bodies

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 1WS, on public bodies, what estimate he has made of the cost savings arising from the abolition of each body listed in the statement; and what assessment he has made of the effect on Wales of each such abolition. [11260]

Mr Davey: Once the closures announced by the Secretary of State on 19 July have taken place, estimated annual cost savings will be:

£000	
Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy (SABIP)	300
SITPRO (Simplifying Internal Trade)	280
Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Body (WAB)	10
British Shipbuilders Corporation	13

All four bodies have a UK-based remit. SABIP's work programme will be integrated into the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and continuing functions of the other bodies will transfer to BIS. We do not therefore expect the closures to have any impact which is specific to Wales.

Departmental Secondment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to increase the number of officials seconded from his Department to the EU institutions. [9286]

Mr Davey: As part of the Government's drive to enhance the UK's representation and voice in the EU institutions, work is underway to develop a more strategic approach to the use of secondments of UK civil servants to posts in the EU institutions, where UK experience and insight can add real value. We aim to ensure that these secondments are joined up across Government and appropriately targeted so that our good people are sent to strategically important positions. Short-term secondees from Government to the EU are an important source of immediate advice, and of long-term EU expertise back in Whitehall. Departments will look to help staff prepare for secondments, keep in touch while they are away and fully use their skills and experience when they get back.

Supporting secondments is a valuable investment that can pay dividends, so it is important to ensure that UK secondees are placed in positions that matter in terms of UK priorities. Where opportunities become available in UK priority areas, then consideration will be given to providing a UK secondee.

BIS usually has between six and 10 secondees in the institutions at any one time. Our centrally managed EU secondment programme focuses on BIS priority areas and sending the best candidates as opposed to the total number of secondees. Another consideration is that EU secondments vary in cost according the grade of the secondee, length of secondment and whether the institutions provide living allowances.

EU Grants and Loans

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms he proposes for the allocation of EU structural funding following the abolition of regional development agencies. [10754]

Mr Prisk: The decision on the new arrangements for regional co-ordination of English ERDF following the abolition of the regional development agencies is still under consideration by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, as his Department is the managing authority for ERDF programmes in England. No other structural funds programmes are affected by the abolition.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the cost to British businesses of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in June 2010. [11301]

Mr Prisk: No estimate exists which would provide a figure for the overall cost of EU regulations to British business in June 2010. To calculate the costs would involve disproportionate expenditure.

Farepak

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the report of the *(a)* administrators and *(b)* investigators in respect of the collapse of Farepak. [10786]

Mr Davey: It is assumed that the 'administrators' report' refers to the statutory disqualification return filed under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 by the administrators.

When a company goes into administration, insolvent liquidation or administrative receivership, the responsible insolvency practitioner has a duty under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 to report confidentially, via a 'D Return', to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on the conduct of the directors. This is a statutory obligation in every company and the fact that an insolvency practitioner submits a report on a company's director(s) does not necessarily mean that misconduct is alleged. However if misconduct is alleged, the Insolvency Service, on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, then has a discretionary power to seek the director's disqualification where it is believed to be in the public interest.

The administrators filed the D Returns for the Farepak group of companies in March 2007.

D Returns are not published as part of the information contained therein is information about the conduct of directors which is personal data. Disclosure of the personal data of directors of a company would contravene the first Data Protection Principle. In addition, in some cases, prejudice to an investigation is likely to result from disclosure.

The investigation into Farepak was conducted under section 447 of the Companies Act 1985, and carried out by staff of Companies Investigation Branch of BIS. Information obtained under section 447 cannot be disclosed except where the statute expressly permits it and, unlike with the section 432 inspection, there is no provision for publication of reports. The report is very long and detailed. Counsel has been considering the report and supporting information. If any proceedings are initiated as a result of the report, they must remain confidential until they reach court.

Financial Services

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisations officials of his Department have met to discuss regulation of the debt management sector since 6 May 2010. [11471]

Mr Davey: My officials speak to a wide range of interested parties as part of conducting the business of government. However, since 6 May, those officials have not met any organisations specifically to discuss the regulation of the debt management sector.

Foreign Investment: EU Action

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of the proposals in the European Commission's communication towards a comprehensive European international investment policy and its proposal for a regulation establishing transitional arrangements for bilateral investment agreements between member states and third countries on the ability of the UK to negotiate and conduct bilateral investment agreements; and if he will make a statement. [10854]

Mr Davey: The European Commission's communication 'Towards a comprehensive European international investment policy' is a non-binding document which sets out the European Commission's intentions for future international investment policy. The aims set out in the communication are positive, especially those of providing investors with legal certainty and of prioritising negotiations with the countries they list. The regulation establishing transitional arrangements for bilateral investment agreements between member states and third countries enables member states to negotiate and conclude bilateral investment agreements. The UK Government are committed to ensuring legal certainty for investors and will work with the European Union to this end.

Graduates: Employment

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he made of the proportion of graduates who found employment within a year of graduation in the latest period for which figures are available. [11226]

Mr Willetts: All UK and EU-domiciled graduates are surveyed on their destinations, including employment circumstances six months after graduating; therefore data are available for six months after graduation, but not one year. The latest available data is for the 2008/09 cohort of graduates.

Of the 2008/09 cohort of full-time first degree graduates, 68.4% were in employment six months after graduating, including those in a combination of work and study.

Of those that were not employed, 17.2% were in further study only, 9.2% were assumed to be unemployed, 3.9% were not available for employment and 1.3% were classified as "other".

Notes:

1. "Assumed to be unemployed" includes anyone due to start a job within the next month and not in full-time study, or anyone who is unemployed and looking for employment but not in full-time study.
2. "Not available for employment" includes those permanently unable to work or retired, taking time out to travel, or temporarily sick or looking after family and not in study.
3. "Other" includes those graduates who are not employed but not looking for employment, further study or training, or something else but not in further study.

Source:

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures used do not include graduates who do not respond to the survey, or those whose response is an explicit refusal to answer the survey.

Graduates: Public Sector

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many graduates entered employment in the public sector in each year since 2003. [11194]

Mr Willetts: Information on the type of employment graduates enter is collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) via the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. However, the way in which employment information is recorded does not allow for a split between public and private sector employment.

The best estimate we can make on the proportion of graduates entering public sector employment is based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes from those who enter occupations we would expect to have high levels of public employment e.g. public administration and defence, education, and health and social work (though note that these will include some private sector employment as well). The proportion entering these professions since 2003 are shown in the following table.

Proportion of full-time first degree graduates entering employment in the UK who are employed in the public sector[1], 2003/04 to 2008/09

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Number entering public sector[1] employment	45,335	46,030	44,980	46,910	51,575	50,930
Proportion of graduates in UK employment in public sector[1] (%)	35.1	35.5	34.7	35.4	38.6	38.5

[1] Defined as those in SIC categories: public administration and defence, education and health and social work.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest five in line with HESA's publishing conventions.

Source:

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey 2003/04 to 2008/09 published by HESA.

Higher Education and Student Finance Independent Review

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date the independent review of higher education funding and student finance ceased to receive submissions of evidence. [10988]

Mr Willetts: The review's call for proposals was closed on 14 May. My noble Lord, Lord Browne of Madingley, who is chairing the review, has informed me that the review's advisory forum has continued to meet on a regular basis.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on social mobility of *(a)* the number of funded places available in universities in England in 2010 and *(b)* the number of university applications made through UCAS. [10979]

Mr Willetts: Evidence shows that there is a strong link between higher education and social mobility. Those with higher level qualifications are more likely to be in work and less likely to be unemployed than those qualified at lower levels. No assessment has been made of the effect on social mobility of the number of funded university places or applicants in England in 2010.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which 20 universities admitted the most students *(a)* aged 25 years or more at the point of admission and *(b)* from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in the latest period for which figures are available. [11010]

Mr Willetts: The 20 higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants *(a)* aged 25 years or over and *(b)* from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are provided separately in the following tables:

Figures are provided for the 2008/09 academic year and are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record. Data for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from January 2011.

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] aged 25 or over, academic year 2008/09

Institution	*Proportion aged 25+ (%)*
Institute of Education	92.6
Birkbeck College	81.6
Open University	78.5
Thames Valley University	66.6
The City University	64.7
University of Teesside	64.5
Harper Adams University College	63.3
University of Sunderland	63.3
University of Bolton	61.5
University of Warwick	60.6
Edge Hill University	59.0
Anglia Ruskin University	58.3

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] aged 25 or over, academic year 2008/09

Institution	Proportion aged 25+ (%)
London South Bank University	57.3
Canterbury Christ Church University	56.2
St Georges Hospital Medical School	56.2
University Campus Suffolk	55.3
Buckinghamshire New University	55.0
University of Bedfordshire	52.5
University of Greenwich	50.2
University of Huddersfield	50.1

[1] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time undergraduate courses. *Note:*
Percentages are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population and are rounded to one decimal place.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] from minority ethnic backgrounds[2], academic year 2008/09

Institution	Proportion from minority ethnic backgrounds (%)
The School of Pharmacy	77.8
Brunel University	65.8
Queen Mary and Westfield College	64.8
University of East London	64.7
University of Buckingham	59.2
London South Bank University	58.7
Middlesex University	57.0
University of Bradford	56.6
Aston University	54.9
University of Westminster	53.2
Kingston University	52.7
London Metropolitan University	52.2
London School of Economics and Political Science	50.2
Thames Valley University	49.3
St Georges Hospital Medical School	47.1
The School of Oriental and African Studies	46.0
Kings College London	45.6
Roehampton University	45.1
University of Hertfordshire	44.8
The City University	43.2

[1] Covers all-aged entrants to full-time and part-time undergraduate courses. [2] Minority ethnic backgrounds includes students whose ethnicity was classified as black, Asian, mixed or other. Percentages are based on students with known ethnicity and exclude those entrants whose ethnicity information was classified as unknown, refused or missing. *Note:* Percentages are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population and are rounded to one decimal place.
Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which 20 universities admitted the most undergraduates from *(a)* low-participation neighbourhoods and *(b)* state schools in the latest period for which figures are available. [11050]

Mr Willetts: The 20 higher education institutions with the highest proportion of young UK-domiciled full-time undergraduate entrants from *(a)* low-participation neighbourhoods and *(b)* state school or college are provided in the following tables. Figures are provided for the 2008/09 academic year and are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency's Performance Indicators in Higher Education. Further information is available at the following link:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/

Performance indicators for the 2009/10 academic year should become available from April 2011.

Table 1: Higher education institutions with the highest proportion of young[1] UK-domiciled full-time undergraduate entrants from low participation neighbourhoods, English higher education institutions, academic year 2008/09

Institution	Percentage from low participation neighbourhoods
The University of Teesside	28.6
The University of Sunderland	26.9
Newman University College	23.9
The University of Bolton	23.8
Edge Hill University	22.5
The University of Wolverhampton	22.3
Staffordshire University	21.7
The University of Salford	21.0
Leeds Trinity University College(#2)	20.8
University of Derby	20.7
University Campus Suffolk	20.7
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	20.2
Liverpool Hope University	19.6
Sheffield Hallam University	18.8
Liverpool John Moores University	17.7
The University of Bradford	17.6
The University of Essex	17.5
The University of Hull	17.4
The University of Huddersfield	17.2
Anglia Ruskin University	16.8
Canterbury Christ Church University	16.8

[1] Refers to entrants aged under 21.
Note:
Percentages are given to one decimal place.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA): Performance indicators in higher education in the UK, 2008/09.

Table 2: Higher education institutions with the highest proportion of young[1] UK-domiciled full-time undergraduate entrants from state school or college, English higher education institutions, academic year 2008/09

Institution	Percentage from state school or college
University College Plymouth St Mark and St John	100.0
The University of Bolton	99.7
University College Birmingham	99.6
University Campus Suffolk	99.6
The University of Wolverhampton	99.5
The University of Teesside	99.2
University of Bedfordshire	98.9
Edge Hill University	98.9
Middlesex University	98.9
London South Bank University	98.8
Newman University College	98.7
Thames Valley University	98.6
The University of Huddersfield	98.4
The University of East London	98.3
Liverpool Hope University	98.3
The University of Sunderland	98.2

Table 2: Higher education institutions with the highest proportion of young[1] UK-domiciled full-time undergraduate entrants from state school or college. English higher education institutions, academic year 2008/09

Institution	*Percentage from state school or college*
The University of Salford	98.1
Writtle College	98.1
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	98.0
University of Cumbria	98.0
The University of Greenwich	98.0
Staffordshire University	98.0

[1] Refers to entrants aged under 21.

Note:

Percentages are given to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA): Performance indicators in higher education in the UK, 2008/09

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students obtained a university place through the UCAS clearing process in each year since 2006. [11195]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table.

Entrants from all domiciles to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions obtaining a place through the UCAS clearing process, 2006/07 to 2009/10

	Number
2006	38,032
2007	38,858
2008	43,890
2009	47,673

Source:

UCAS.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in the higher education budget on *(a)* the international activities of UK universities and *(b)* the contribution of such activities to UK foreign exchange earnings. [10981]

Mr Willetts: The Department has several bilateral education programmes with countries such as China and India and a multilateral programme involving a variety of countries. These programmes help to support the UK's educational institutions to engage internationally. They are not exclusively about higher education, although this is a major element. The programmes are funded until March 2011. Decisions on future funding will be taken in the spending review. The latest available estimate of the value of international higher education activity to the UK economy is £5.3 billion according to "The impact of universities on the UK", a report published by Universities UK in November 2009.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 320W, on higher education: finance, whether he has undertaken an equality impact assessment on the proposed reduction in the university modernisation fund. [11037]

Mr Willetts: The Department has not undertaken an impact assessment of either the original decision to set up the university modernisation fund (UMF) or the decision to refocus it on the highest quality proposals. The bids made to the fund were for significantly fewer than 20,000 places and were of variable quality. It is for universities to decide who to accept for the additional 8,000 full-time and 2,000 part-time places provided by the UMF, not the Government.

However, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) carried out a full sector impact assessment on 28 May 2010. The relevant sections on equality and diversity are reproduced here. The full document is available on the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/finance/fundinghe/places/UMF_SIA.pdf

No.7 (of the report) Which of the various groups protected by equality legislation are likely to be affected by this policy/initiative/project, and how?

Increasing provision in areas where there is clear evidence of demand will widen overall access to such courses. It will support HEIs in delivering their own equality and diversity (E&D) strategies by increasing the volume of provision they have available, especially in supporting those groups protected by equality legislation which have historically been considered to be underrepresented in the subject areas covered by the process, such as women. Analysis of current recruitment data by HEFCE has shown that the relatively small additional numbers of new entrants (10,000) will not have a significant impact on the make-up of the typical student body.

No. 8 (of the report) What evidence have you used to ascertain whether there will be an impact (or not) on these groups?

In order to calculate the 10,000 new entrants, in each HEFCE-funded institution we have identified populations of fundable undergraduates who commenced a programme of study in 2008-09. The current sector profiles in respect of the E&D groups have been calculated based on these populations. Note that none of these students will be directly affected by the policy.

Assuming that the new entrants recruited will be similar to those students recruited in 2008-09, the E&D profiles of the 10,000 new entrants have been modelled. Note that this modelling is based on proposals received and accounts for the institution, mode, level and price group of the proposed new entrants. The current E&D profiles have been compared to those of the 10,000 new entrants:

Equality and diversity group	*Proportion of 2008-09 entrant population (percentage)*	*Proportion of 10,000 new Entrants population (percentage)*
Known to receive disabled students' allowance (DSA)	3.3	4.0
Male	46.0	48.8
Black minority ethnic	18.6	19.6
From low participation neighbourhood	11.4	12.1
Aged 21 to 25	6.5	7.6
Aged 25 and over	14.7	17.8

No. 9 (of the report) Which negative impacts have been identified during the development of this policy/project/initiative, and what actions have been taken to mitigate the effect?

The impact of this initiative on the make-up of the student body is not likely to be significant: section 8 shows relatively minor differences in the proportion of the populations that each E&D group represents.

Positive impacts might be expected among some groups, such as those known to receive DSA or from a low participation neighbourhood. Given the size of the differences, and the range of other external factors that might contribute to any variation in these proportions, negative impacts will be limited. Within the relatively short timescales demanded of this initiative, it would not be possible to mitigate these minor effects.

No. 10 (of the report) What actions will be taken to ensure that this policy/project/initiative promotes both equality and diversity?

We are generally reassured that student recruitment policies are robust, but in light of our duty to promote E&D, we should take all reasonable steps to remind HEIs of their duties under the legislation.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of total student numbers in universities in the academic year 2011-12. [11193]

Mr Willetts: The coalition Government are funding 1,190,000 full-time equivalent places in 2010-11, including the 10,000 places announced as part of the University Modernisation Fund. No funding decisions have been made for 2011-12; these will take place following the Spending Review this autumn.

Institute for Learning

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Institute for Learning against its objectives. [10884]

Mr Hayes: The Institute for Learning (IfL) is an independent professional body set up in 2002 by teachers in FE for teachers in FE, and in partnership with unions and employer membership bodies, with the aim of raising the standards of professional practice in post-compulsory education and training in England. It is governed by a national council consisting of elected members and representation from key national stakeholders. As such it is for them, rather than BIS, to judge IfL's performance.

IfL members said in the most recent independently conducted satisfaction survey that 92% assess IfL's benefits from "fair to excellent", with 61% saying "good or excellent".

Licensed Premises: Bankruptcy

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many licensed premises and bars in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London were declared bankrupt in each of the last five years. [11173]

Mr Davey: Official corporate insolvency statistics are not currently available broken down by geographical region. Table 1 shows the number of bars (for 2007-09) and licensed premises (for 2005-06) that were declared insolvent in the whole of England and Wales for each of the last five years.

Statistics for personal insolvencies, including bankruptcies, are available to local authority level on The Insolvency Service website. However, sufficient detail to identify bankruptcies where the debts are primarily the result of trading, by industry and region, is not readily available.

Table 1: Insolvencies in England and Wales[1]

	Compulsory liquidation	*Creditors' voluntary liquidation*	*Trading-related bankruptcy orders*	*Receivership*	*Administration*	*Company voluntary arrangement*
2005	132	80	514	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
2006[3]	109	73	388	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
2007[4]	75	56	220	3	9	4
2008	170	163	657	7	44	23
2009	147	214	543	11	48	16

[1] Number of bars (for 2007-09) and licensed premises (for 2005-06).

[2] Not Available at this level of detail. [3] Data only available for Q1-Q3 2006 due to a change in industry classification.

[4] Data only available for Q3-Q4 2007 due to a change in industry classification.

The Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify trading-related bankruptcies (and company liquidations) until end September 2006. More recently, the Standard Industry Classification 2003 has been in use and there have been associated changes to the method used to identify traders among bankrupts and company liquidations by industry. From September 2006 until June 2007 there is no information available by industry. The period covered should not, therefore, be treated as a consistent time series.

Loans: Regulation

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to bring forward proposals for regulation of interest rates charged by lenders on consumer finance. [11120]

Mr Davey: I recently announced a joint BIS and HM Treasury review of consumer credit and personal insolvency and this Department will be issuing a formal call for evidence following the summer recess. The review will provide a framework within which to consider coalition commitments on consumer credit such as our proposals on interest rate caps on credit and store cards.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) recently considered the possible introduction of price controls on interest rates on products such as pawnbroking, payday loans and home collected credit as part of its review of high cost consumer finance products. The review concluded that price controls would not be a suitable solution to the concerns the OFT identified.

Our call for evidence will give industry and consumer groups the opportunity to provide evidence on how they think the findings of the OFT review should be taken forward, including those on interest rates.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution he expects local economic partnerships to make to attracting inward investment. [9313]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The information requested is as follows:

> "The Government has said that RDAs responsibilities for inward investment from overseas will come to the national level. There will remain a need for delivery of support at a local level to potential and existing foreign direct investors.
>
> UKTI is considering, in the context of the current spending review, how local knowledge and relationships will best be accessed. The Government will take into account inputs from a range of interested parties including, wherever possible, local enterprise partnerships themselves: they will have views on what they may wish or be able to contribute to the delivery process."

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 16 June 2010 on his constituent Mr Ervine Okuboh. [7774]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills replied on 20 July 2010.

Motorsport and Aerospace

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 298W, on motorsport and aerospace, what steps he plans to take to put into effect the policy commitments made in the Government response to the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2009-10, HC 173, Full speed ahead: maintaining UK excellence in motorsport and aerospace, Cm 7867. [R] [11218]

Mr Prisk: On 13 July, "A Strategy for Sustainable Growth" was published which will be developed further during the summer. We will be looking to ensure that our approach to specific sectors such as automotive and aerospace reflects our overall strategy. At the Farnborough International Airshow on 19 July, the Secretary of State announced that he will chair regular meetings with aerospace business leaders to focus on major strategic issues facing the aerospace sector. This will set the direction for action by a wider business/Government Aerospace Growth Partnership group to be chaired by myself, involving ADS (the industry trade association) and representatives from across the UK aerospace supply chain. Together these groups will play a key role in meeting our objective of creating the conditions for growth and innovation within the aerospace sector. In developing the agenda to be addressed by these groups, we will take account of the recommendations made in the Select Committee's report.

In addition, I have met representatives of the motorsport industry recently and discussed how best to engage with that sector. This is an ongoing process but my initial view remains that the Automotive Council is the best way for Government to engage with the motorsport industry as a whole. We will be working closely with key UK automotive companies through the Automotive Council to stimulate new technologies and build stronger supply chains.

Northwest Regional Development Agency: Wirral

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the decision to end the North West Development Agency on projects in Wirral South which have been allocated funding by that agency in 2010-11. [7673]

Mr Prisk: The regional development agencies have been given allocations for 2010-11 and subject to the continuing affordability of their overall programme they will be seeking to deliver those grants which have been approved by their boards for this financial year.

Older Workers

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment has been made of the ability of the *(a)* public, *(b)* private and *(c)* voluntary sector to adapt to having an older workforce; and if he will make a statement. [10491]

Mr Davey: It is clear that people are living longer and healthier lives. Against the backdrop of this demographic change, the Government want to help and encourage people to work for longer in all sectors and to remove any unnecessary barriers to them doing so. It is the Government's view that older workers bring with them a wealth of talent and experience as employees and entrepreneurs. They have a vital contribution to make to our economic recovery and long-term prosperity. In line with the coalition agreement, the Government will be consulting shortly on phasing out the default retirement age and we will publish an impact assessment alongside that consultation.

One NorthEast

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much One NorthEast spent in *(a)* the Tees Valley, *(b)* Tyne and Wear, *(c)* Northumberland and *(d)* County Durham in each year since its establishment. [11820]

Mr Prisk: The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies (RDAs). The RDAs determine how to spend their budgets, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the Regional Economic Strategy and their corporate plans. The Department does not hold details of spending on individual projects and initiatives supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees of One NorthEast are resident in *(a)* the Tees Valley and *(b)* Tyne and Wear. [11821]

Mr Prisk: The Department does not hold information about the residency of employees of regional development agencies.

Overseas Trade: Kazakhstan

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps UK Trade & Investment is taking to explore the potential for trade with Kazakhstan in the *(a)* energy, *(b)* education and *(c)* financial services sector. [8898]

Mr Prisk: There are a range of opportunities for UK companies in Kazakhstan. The main areas that UK Trade & Investment is focussing on are energy, education and the financial services sector.

In energy UK Trade & Investment is working with major international operating companies including to develop opportunities for UK supply chain companies in the oil and gas sector. Additionally through the Kazakh British Trade and Industry Council UKTI is bringing together UK expertise in the nuclear power sector to respond to opportunities for developing new power generation capability.

In education UKTI has helped facilitate approximately 37 agreements between Kazakh colleges and UK colleges. These have helped promote awareness of UK capabilities in the vocational training sector.

UKTI has worked with TVET UK who signed an agreement with Samruk Kazyna to supply technical skills to their new corporate university. With UKTI support, TVET UK is delivering a programme to train volunteers for the Asian Winter Games.

The UK is working with the Small Business Federation in Kazakhstan over training for this sector. There are ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Tourism about support for their training needs.

Through the Kazakh British Trade and Industry Council, UKTI is assisting the British Council with the establishment of stronger services in the English language sector.

In financial services UKTI supported and facilitated the visit by the Lord Mayor of London to Kazakhstan in July 2009, which itself followed up a previous Lord Mayor's visit in 2007. As part of the follow-up to this visit, UKTI is currently working with the Law Society of England and Wales to hold an event (seminar and trade visit), with a focus on commercial arbitration and public-private partnerships (PPP), during the first half of 2011.

UKTI is also assisting the Regional Financial Centre Almaty (RFCA) with their training needs. One college will begin to pilot foundation degrees in financial services shortly in association with the RFCA Academy, as a result of being on the Lord Mayor's visit last year.

Public Sector: Redundancy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to introduce a programme of retraining for public sector workers made redundant as a result of reductions in departmental expenditure limits. [4704]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 28 June 2010]*: Each Department is responsible for developing appropriate training for their own staff. BIS offers pre-retirement courses and more general support, including CV writing and interview skills, for staff who are considering exiting the Department on voluntary or compulsory terms.

Regional Development Agencies

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what criteria were used in reaching the decision to allocate budget reductions for 2010-11 between each regional development agency; and if he will make a statement; [10641]

(2) what *(a)* statistics, *(b)* analysis and *(c)* other evidence were used in reaching his recent decision to treat the East Midlands Development Agency in the same category as the regional development agencies in the south and east of England in deciding on reductions in its budget for 2010-11. [10642]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 22 July 2010]*: The recent programme budget reductions for the regional development agencies in 2010-11 were informed by the distribution of budgets agreed at the start of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) 2007. However those agencies (East of England, East Midlands, South East and South West Regional Development Agencies) whose regions have seen the greatest growth in their economy over recent years have been asked to absorb a slightly higher share of the cuts. Additionally, the administrative budget was reduced by 10% for all RDAs.

Regional Development Agencies: Lobbying

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W, on regional development agencies, what consultants were hired by each regional development agency to *(a)* lobby and *(b)* communicate with parliamentary candidates in the period up to the general election; and at what cost. [11143]

Mr Prisk: In the 12 months up to the May 2010 general election purdah period, regional development agencies responded to prospective parliamentary candidates' requests for information and meetings on RDA activity and role within the region where they were made.

In response to part *(a)* of the question no RDA has employed any consultants to lobby parliamentary candidates.

In response to part *(b)* of the question, as the hon. Member for Burton will be aware, Advantage West Midlands did approach a number of prospective parliamentary candidates before the 2010 general election to ascertain their view of regional economic development, functions carried out by regional development agencies and their thoughts on the future implementation of economic development and regeneration. This was an information-gathering exercise designed to help AWM gauge local opinion as part of AWM's normal stakeholder relations process. At no time were these meetings used, or intended to be used, for lobbying on behalf of AWM. AWM engaged the services of one consultant at a cost of £850 to undertake this work.

Regional Development Agencies: Operating Costs

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* administrative and *(b)* overhead costs of each regional development agency were in each year since 2005. [11817]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is available in the annual reports and accounts published by the individual RDAs and deposited annually in the Libraries of the House.

South West Regional Development Agency

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many South West Regional Development Agency staff work primarily on projects located in Cornwall; [11762]

(2) how many staff South West Regional Development Agency employed in the latest period for which figures are available; [11763]

(3) how many South West Regional Development Agency staff were working primarily on projects related to Plymouth in the latest period for which figures are available. [11765]

Mr Prisk: I will answer these in order.

As at 30 June 2010 315.5 FTE staff were employed by the South West RDA.

As at 30 June 2010 40 staff (35.6 FTE) were working primarily on projects in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

As at 30 June 2010 11 staff (11 FTE) were working primarily on projects in Plymouth.

In addition 11 (10.4 FTE) staff deal with projects for Plymouth, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. The agency also employs staff within its central teams who work on projects across the south-west region which involve projects in Cornwall, for example Combined Universities for Cornwall and Business Link and projects in Plymouth, for example Peninsular Research Institute for Marine Renewable Energy. This has the benefit of economies of scale through resource and expertise management. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of these figures. These front-line staff are supported by back-office staff in Finance, HR, IT, Corporate Affairs etc.

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the South West Regional Development Agency's budget for 2009-10 was spent in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. [11764]

Mr Prisk: The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the Regional Economic Strategy and their Corporate Plans. The Department does not hold details of all assistance given by RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

Student Loans Company

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Student Loans Company; and if he will make a statement. [11327]

Mr Willetts: Lord Browne's Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Funding is looking at all aspects of student finance. It will report in the autumn.

Student Loans Company: Darlington

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people are employed by the Student Loans Company in Darlington. [11325]

Mr Willetts: The SLC informs me that as at 22 July 2010, it employs 688 staff in Darlington (613 permanent and 75 temporary). This equates to 667 FTEs; all temporary staff are full time and of the permanent staff, 546 are full time and 67 part time.

Students: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer, *(b)* the National Union of Students, *(c)* the Universities and Colleges Union, *(d)* the Russell Group and *(e)* other universities on (i) a supplementary tax on graduates and (ii) raising the cap on tuition fees. [11316]

Mr Willetts: Ministers and officials in this Department regularly meet their counterparts in other Government Departments and higher education stakeholders for discussions and advice on a range of issues including general discussions about university funding.

The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, led by Lord Browne, has been tasked with making recommendations to Government on the future of fees policy and financial support for students in England. The review will consider how to ensure a properly funded university sector in a way which is more financially sustainable than the current system, and it is looking at a wide range of options. It will report in the autumn.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the range of potential revenues which would accrue to universities in England from *(a)* a supplementary tax on graduates and *(b)* raising the cap on tuition fees. [11318]

Mr Willetts: The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, led by Lord

Browne, has been tasked with making recommendations to Government on the future of fees policy and financial support for students in England. The review will consider how to ensure a properly funded university sector in a way which is more financially sustainable than the current system, and it is looking at a wide range of options. It will report in the autumn.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on higher education in Scotland of raising the cap on tuition fees in England. [11560]

Mr Willetts: The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, led by Lord Browne, has been tasked with making recommendations to Government on the future of fees policy and financial support for students in England. The review will consider how to ensure a properly funded university sector in a way which is more financially sustainable than the current system. It will report in the autumn.

UK Trade and Investment: Afghanistan

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of assigning a representative of UK Trade & Investment to Afghanistan. [9965]

Mr Prisk: UKTI recognises the opportunities that exist in Afghanistan, and supports activities where appropriate. Representation within markets reflects business demand. Presently, the requests received by UKTI for assistance in connection with Afghanistan are limited and ad hoc. UKTI has been exploring private-sector interest in the idea of providing a secondee for an in-market scoping exercise, but so far it has been muted.

UKTI will continue to monitor and review the scale of opportunities and level of demand for some form of in-market presence in this market, and to calibrate this with competing demands for resources from other markets.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 27 July 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7614]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) as it is now configured, following the completion of devolution on 12 April, are not available:

(a) Since 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office has spent £562.50 (exclusive of VAT) on web design;

(b) The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which incurred no expenditure in this area.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the proportion of Catholic police officers within the Police Service of Northern Ireland to reach 30 per cent. [11572]

Mr Paterson: Catholic composition of the PSNI regulars currently stands at 29.15%. I will be discussing the impact of the Chief Constable's decision to impose a recruitment freeze with the Justice Minister after the summer.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11710]

Mr Paterson: Civil servants in the Department have spent approximately 73.5 hours on trade union-related activities since 12 April 2010. Comparable figures for the department as it is now configured, following the completion of devolution on 12 April, are not available for the preceding period.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants in his Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11711]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), as it is now configured following the completion of devolution on 12 April, does not have full-time dedicated trade union representatives. The Department has five staff representatives all of whom have spent the equivalent of five days or fewer on trade union-related activities since 12 April.

Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available for the period preceding 12 April.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Anaerobic Digestion

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage the use of anaerobic digestion *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the east midlands. [11582]

Gregory Barker: At a national level, renewable electricity generation from anaerobic digestion is incentivised through both the renewables obligation and the feed-in-tariff. In addition we are funding through the environmental transformation fund an anaerobic digestion demonstration programme which will provide the industry, the finance sector and stakeholders with valuable information on the benefits of anaerobic digestion. AD projects can also receiving funding through the European Union rural development programme for England.

The Secretary of State announced today in his annual energy statement that support for anaerobic digestion will be 'grandfathered' under the renewables obligation (ie that the level of support for a project will not change once it is accredited).

We expect to set out later this year the further steps to be taken by Government and industry to deliver the coalition programme commitment to a huge increase in energy from waste using anaerobic digestion.

Feasibility studies have been carried out into anaerobic digestion in the east midlands at a regional and local scale for electricity generation and for transport fuel production. Two projects have already received funding and several more are in the pipeline.

Banks: Environment Protection

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the *(a)* future and *(b)* future funding of regional green banks. [9454]

Gregory Barker: Following the spending review, the Government will put forward detailed proposals on the creation of a green investment bank to help the UK meet the low-carbon investment challenge. The Government are considering a wide range of options for the scope and structure of the green investment bank and will assess the implications for regional financing initiatives for low carbon technologies as part of this consideration.

In addition, RDAs are supporting green investment through specific low carbon and generalist SME venture capital funds using ERDF structural funds. The Government will continue to support these funds subject to transitional arrangements for the unwinding of RDAs.

Carbon Emissions

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to meet the target of a 20 per cent. reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020. [11244]

Gregory Barker: The Climate Change Act 2008 sets greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of at least 34% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050 (both from the 1990 baseline). The first three carbon budgets, running from 2008 to 2012, 2013 to 2017 and 2018 to 2022, are set in line with the 34% target. This is based on the UK's share of an EU-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 20% from 1990 levels by 2020. Latest projections published in June indicate that on central scenarios we are on track to achieve the 34% target.

The Prime Minister has pledged to make this the greenest Government ever. In addition to a range of new policy initiatives, the coalition has already announced that central Government would reduce its carbon emissions by 10% within 12 months and that real time reporting of energy efficiency data would be implemented across Government HQ buildings. We are also supporting greater energy efficiency by introducing the green deal and have announced in the House that we are extending the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) to the end of 2012. We are supporting the carbon price by arguing for the EU to adopt a 30% emissions target for 2020 and we will reform the electricity market to deliver the investment we need to ensure decarbonisation and security of supply.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the carbon emissions reduction target and community energy saving programme schemes in reducing levels of carbon dioxide emissions. [11568]

Gregory Barker: An evaluation of the predecessor scheme to the carbon emissions reduction target reported in December 2008, and found it to be very effective. Ofgem administrates CERT on the Government's behalf, publishing quarterly updates of suppliers' progress towards targets. Ofgem accredits the carbon score of schemes where suppliers meet the terms of the operational guidance, including auditing and reporting requirements. CERT has been focussed around measures which deliver long lived savings, namely insulation. We estimate that the measures delivered under CERT will deliver lifetime savings of some 185 Mt CO_2 by April 2011. An evaluation of the scheme will be undertaken in 2011.

A full public consultation was held on proposals for the community energy saving programme (CESP) from February to May 2009 and it came into effect from September 2009. The CESP impact assessment following the consultation estimated that the scheme will deliver some 2.9 Mt CO_2 over the lifetime of the measures installed. We are currently undertaking an evaluation of the CESP, which will be complete in March 2011.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the total level of carbon dioxide reductions credited to energy suppliers in respect of unsolicited provision of energy efficient lightbulbs to customers under the carbon emissions reduction target scheme. [11569]

Gregory Barker: Under the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) between April 2008 and March 2010, approximately 140 million bulbs were distributed outside of retail routes to achieve approximately 20 million lifetime tonnes of carbon dioxide reductions (approximately 11% of suppliers total target). We do not know how many of these bulbs were provided unsolicited.

The Government have announced that CFLs will no longer be eligible for promotion under the CERT extension (April 2011 to December 2012) and that written consumer requests will be required for any non-professionally installed measure delivered outside of retail routes.

Combined Heat and Power

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to raise the feed-in tariff threshold from 5MW to 10MW. [7263]

Gregory Barker: As we set out in the Coalition Programme for Government, we will establish a full system of feed-in tariffs in electricity. We are considering our strategic approach to electricity market reform and funding for renewables and will make further announcements in due course.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11386]

Gregory Barker: In the last three months, DECC has paid the following percentages of invoices:

Percentage

Month	*Within five working days*[1]	*Within 10 working days*	*Within 30 calendar days*[2]
April 2010	n/a	96.2	99.3
May 2010	92.3	n/a	99.3
June 2010	94.4	n/a	99.9

[1] From May 2010, the requirement to monitor and report payment performance against 10 working days was changed to five working days; 10 day payment performance for May and June has not been recorded.

[2] DECC's standard agreed payment terms is payment in 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice.

DECC does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. We do not discriminate by size of business because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

Departmental Internet

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its predecessor spent on search engine biasing with (i) Google and (ii) other search engines in each of the last five years. [10017]

Gregory Barker: DECC spent £309,800 exclusive of VAT in 2009-10. DECC was formed in October 2008 and did not hold budgets to cover paid search until 2009-10.

We are unable to break these figures down by search engine as neither we nor the Central Office of Information hold that level of detail and to find this out would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since its inception. [7570]

Gregory Barker: The Department was established in October 2008. Expenditure figures for 2008-09 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. In 2009-10 the Department spent £15.48 million on legal services. "Legal services" includes legal advice, the cost of DECC's internal legal team and other legal services such as the conduct of litigation. The Department's NDPBs' expenditure on legal services was £6.03 million in 2008-09 and £1.92 million in 2009-10.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10110]

Gregory Barker: There has been nil spend on hospitality events by Ministers in May and June of 2010.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9896]

Gregory Barker: The amount paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in the Department in 2009-10 was £44,211,403.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 72W, on departmental public expenditure, if he will break down by category of savings the sums to be saved from allocations to low carbon technology and business support. [11651]

Gregory Barker: DECC's support to low carbon technology and business support has been reduced by £34 million in 2010-11. This is broken down as follows:

The Low Carbon Buildings Programme was closed early saving £3 million. The budget for round 2 of the Deep Geothermal Challenge Fund (DGCF) was reduced by £1 million. Bio-energy grants and Infrastructure budgets were reduced by £4.7 million in total. The Energy Saving Trust Trials (advanced heating controls, LED lighting, solid-wall insulation) were ended early saving £0.7 million. The scope of the central Government Low Carbon Technology Programme was reduced saving £2.9 million. The scope of the offshore wind supply chain capital grants scheme was reduced saving £3 million.

The Carbon Trust budget was reduced by £12.6 million. The Carbon Trust is a private company and the precise details of how their savings will be made is a matter for its board, but Carbon Trust will this year receive up to £115 million from DECC when all grants are taken into account.

We will not be proceeding with any unallocated funding.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many employees on temporary contracts worked in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its associated non-ministerial departments and *(c)* the non-department public bodies sponsored by his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [5928]

Gregory Barker: The latest figures (all FTE 'or full-time equivalent') available are based on June 2010 reports. DECC had 41 staff on payroll on temporary contracts and a further 109 people working in DECC on temporary contracts and not on payroll.

Civil nuclear authority had 31 staff on payroll on temporary contracts and a further 14 people working on temporary contracts not on payroll.

The Committee on Climate Change had no staff on temporary contracts.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority had 13 people working on temporary contracts not on payroll.

The Coal Authority had 13 people working on temporary contracts not on payroll.

Departmental Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 2008; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department for use by trade unions in each year since 2008. [11691]

Gregory Barker: DECC was created as a new Department in October 2008; records of trade union-related activities are not available for financial period 2008-09.

For year 2009-10 no money, over and above the salary costs associated with the employment of one full-time departmental trade union side secretary (civil service grade SEO, salary range £34,713 to £41,851) and an additional 42 days spent on union-related activities by local union representatives, was paid to any of our three trades unions.

To date for year 2010-11 no money apart from salary costs has been paid.

No estimate has been made of the value of facilities provided by the Department for use by trade unions.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 2008. [11692]

Gregory Barker: DECC was created as a new Department in October 2008; records of trade union-related activities are not available for financial period 2008-09.

The recognition agreement between DECC and the recognised trade unions (the Public and Commercial Services Union, Prospect, and the FDA) follows the ACAS code of practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities", and sets out the details of facility time agreed between parties.

In 2009-10, DECC employed one full-time equivalent officer (approximately 1,900 hours) who operates as our departmental trade union side secretary. In addition, 42 days (approximately 350 hours) have been spent by civil servants on trade union related duties and activities.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many civil servants in his Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 2008. [11693]

Chris Huhne: DECC was created as a new Department in October 2008; records of trade union-related activities are not available for financial period 2008-09.

The recognition agreement between DECC and the recognised trades unions (the Public and Commercial Services Union, Prospect, and the FDA) follows the ACAS code of practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities", and sets out the details of facility time agreed between parties.

In 2009-10 DECC had one full-time equivalent officer who operated as our departmental trade union side secretary. (Category F)

In the same year 13 other civil servants (trade union representatives) spent fewer than five days each on trade-union related activities. (Category A)

Electric Cables

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedure he plans to adopt for the consideration of applicants for *(a)* new electricity lines of 132 kV and above and *(b)* other linear major infrastructure projects; and if he will make a statement. [11493]

Charles Hendry: Applications for new electricity lines of 132 kV and above and other major linear energy infrastructure projects are currently submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) for examination.

On 29 June we announced that we would abolish the IPC and replace it with a Major Infrastructure Planning Unit (MIPU) as part of the Planning Inspectorate. However, until new legislation is in place to put these arrangements into effect, the IPC will continue in its present role. Once the MIPU is established, it will make recommendations to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State who will determine each case. Transitional arrangements will ensure there is a seamless transition from the current regime to the new one.

Energy: Housing

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria he plans to put in place to determine whether energy efficiency products are eligible for support under the green deal. [10324]

Gregory Barker: We have set out the proposal for a green deal that will enable energy users to install energy efficiency measures, with no upfront cost, and paid for over time through the savings on their energy bills.

While we continue to develop the detail that will underpin the green deal, taking into account the needs of the consumers and industry, we are clear that the cost of repayments for green deal-installed measures should be less than the likely energy bill savings. We are also clear that installed measures should be able to pay for themselves in a reasonable period of time.

We will be setting out the measures that qualify for the green deal in secondary legislation once the forthcoming Energy Security and Green Economy Bill has received Assent.

Energy: National Policy Statements

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS, on the draft energy national policy statements (consultation), what changes have been made to the Appraisal of Sustainability for the Overarching Energy National Policy Statement. [11896]

Charles Hendry: The work on the Appraisal of Sustainability for the Overarching Energy National Policy Statement is not yet complete and therefore I am not able to say now exactly what changes will be made to it. However, once the work is completed, all the Appraisals of Sustainability and the draft national policy statements will be published for re-consultation in the autumn.

Energy: Prices

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider the merits of requiring energy companies to *(a)* promote their social tariffs to those who qualify for them and *(b)* allow registration for social tariffs between April and September each year. [9121]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 19 July 2010]*: Under the current voluntary agreement which is in place from 2008-11, Ofgem has ensured that information about the suppliers' social tariffs and programmes and a contact phone number for consumers to check their eligibility, is available on all the suppliers' websites. Collectively, suppliers had signed up over one million customers by the end of the first year of the agreement, spending £157 million, which exceeded the Government target by 57%.

Suppliers' social tariffs are currently available for registration at the individual suppliers' discretion. However, in order to be called a social tariff and marketed as such, the tariff is required to be available on an enduring basis, not just seasonally.

Under the Energy Act 2010, the Government have powers to introduce mandated social price support through the Energy Act 2010 and, subject to the outcome of the spending review and public consultation on its proposals, intends to introduce the first scheme in 2011.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to limit increases in domestic energy prices. [11610]

Charles Hendry: I have no plans to reintroduce controls for domestic energy prices. Open energy markets and vigorous competition between suppliers are the best means of keeping domestic prices as low as possible. Since privatisation, competition in UK markets has consistently delivered some of the cheapest domestic energy prices in the EU.

Ofgem closely monitors energy price movements and has said it would investigate this market if it appears that competition was not working properly, as indeed they did in 2008-09.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects Ofgem to publish conclusions of its consultation on ending the 65 working day notice period for unilateral contract variations. [11611]

Charles Hendry: I understand that Ofgem is now considering the responses to its consultation and it will publish its final proposals before the end of the summer.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of the use of domestic energy prices when used to calculate wholesale energy prices. [11618]

Charles Hendry: The Department for Energy and Climate Change does not publish wholesale energy price forecasts. It publishes oil, gas and coal price assumptions for the period till 2030, which are used in the Department's analytical work. Rather than forecasting prices, DECC attempts to generate a number of price scenarios, based on estimates of fundamentals, that represent a plausible range that might materialise in the future. The assumptions do not capture short-term volatility in fossil fuel prices, but they are intended to reflect potential long-term trends. It is therefore possible to witness significant deviation from these trends in any one year. The Department keeps these assumptions under review, and will update them when necessary. The last review took place in January 2010 but no changes were made. In addition, as part of DECC's Updated Energy and Emissions Projections, DECC produce wholesale electricity price projections which arise from the fossil fuel price assumptions. The most recent projections can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/proiections/proiections.aspx

Energy: Windows

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of houses eligible under Government schemes for assistance with the installation of energy-efficient windows. [11494]

Gregory Barker: In principle, energy-efficient glazing is an eligible measure under the carbon emissions reduction target for any residential property, providing that the replacement windows go beyond the minimum requirements in part L of the building regulations. It is therefore a decision for the obligated companies whether or not to promote these measures in any particular case. Glazing is also an eligible measure on a similar basis under the Community Energy Saving Programme for any property situated within the scheme's eligible areas.

Housing: Energy

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish the outstanding annual progress reports under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995; and if he will make a statement. [10871]

Gregory Barker: I am currently considering the future of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA), including whether to publish the latest data reported by local authorities and will make my intentions clear in due course.

Insulation: Housing

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the future of the home insulation programme; and if he will make a statement. [11895]

Gregory Barker: On 30 June I announced that the principal home insulation scheme, the carbon emissions reduction target, an obligation on energy suppliers to meet household carbon saving targets, would be extended to the end of December 2012. We have restructured the scheme to increase the focus on delivering insulation measures. An order to give effect to the extended scheme was laid before Parliament on 14 July.

Going forward, we expect home insulation measures to continue to play a central role under the Government's new green deal programme. Provisions relating to the green deal will be included in the forthcoming Energy Security and Green Economy Bill.

Wind Power: Noise

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review the guidance produced by the Energy Technology Support Unit in 1997 on the assessment and rating of noise from wind farms; and if he will make a statement. [9445]

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to revise the noise assessment guidance for wind turbines (ETSU-R-97). [8993]

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will revise ETSU-R-97 on the assessment and rating of noise from wind farms to bring it into line with current standards. [5568]

Charles Hendry: Noise is a key issue to be taken into account in considering proposals for wind farm development. There is no reason to believe that the protection from noise provided for by the ETSU-R-97 guidance does not remain acceptable, and we have no plans to change this.

However, I have commissioned an analysis of how noise impacts are considered in the determination of wind farm planning applications in England. The project will seek to establish best practice in assessing and rating wind turbine noise by investigating previous decisions. Our aim is to ensure that ETSU-R-97 is applied in a consistent and effective manner and that it is implemented in a way that provides the intended level of protection.

Following a competitive tender process, we have awarded the work to Hayes McKenzie, who will begin in September and expect to complete the project around the end of the year.

Nuclear Power

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish a national policy statement on civil nuclear power; and if he will make a statement. [11781]

Charles Hendry: I laid before Parliament a written ministerial statement on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS, which set out that we will re-consult on the energy national policy statements in the autumn. As part of this we will publish the revised draft NPSs including the nuclear NPS. We expect to be in a position to lay the documents before Parliament for ratification in spring next year.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 23WH, what steps he plans to take to identify areas in the UK nuclear sector where there may have been hidden subsidies. [11995]

Charles Hendry: On the question of historic subsidies for nuclear power, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Redcar (Ian Swales) on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 600W.

On new nuclear power, the Government are clear that there will be no public subsidy. As I explained on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 24WH, one area that is being considered carefully is waste and decommissioning funding. The Government are putting in place measures to ensure that operators of new nuclear plants are required by law to set aside money from day one to pay for the waste and clean-up process. The Government will carefully scrutinise other areas, as necessary, to ensure that there is no subsidy for new nuclear going forwards.

Office for Nuclear Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 796W, on Office for Nuclear Development, for what reason the Office for Nuclear Development was listed as a non-departmental body in the answer to the hon. Member for Hartlepool of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 147-8W, on non-departmental public bodies. [10053]

Charles Hendry: The answer my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Climate Change gave to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on 6 July 2010, to his written parliamentary question no. 5720, *Official Report*, column 147-8W was incorrect. My hon. Friend has today laid before Parliament a written ministerial statement correcting this error.

The Office for Nuclear Development (OND) is not a non-departmental public body, but a unit within the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Offshore Wind Capital Grants Scheme

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he made of the likely effects on the Government's progress on their targets on climate change of the reduction in the budget of the offshore wind capital grants scheme prior to his announcement of that reduction. [10319]

Charles Hendry: Decisions on the recent reductions in low carbon technology spending were informed by a value for money assessment of planned programmes, which included an assessment of the impact of the programme on climate change targets as well as other factors such as UK security of supply and the programmes' ability to be delivered within the timescale of the 2010-11 financial year. Following that assessment it was decided to proceed with a £5 million programme, providing grants to seven projects with the strongest fit with the scheme criteria, which we announced on the 5 July 2010. Alongside over £20 million of funding provided in Calls 1 and 2 of this scheme, we expect that funding to make a significant indirect contribution to realising the carbon benefits from offshore wind deployment by supporting next-generation technology.

Power Stations: Didcot

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much water Didcot A power station used for cooling purposes in the latest period for which figures are available; and to what use water so used will be put when Didcot A power station closes in 2020. [11505]

Charles Hendry: In 2009 Didcot A power station's net cooling water usage was 2,941,708 cubic metres. This water will no longer be drawn from the river once Didcot A closes by the end of 2015.

Renewable Energy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on progress towards the Government's targets on climate change of *(a)* the reduction in the budget of the Carbon Trust, *(b)* the reduction of funding for development of deep geothermal energy generation and *(c)* the reduction in scope of the offshore wind capital grants scheme. [10338]

Charles Hendry: Decisions on the recent reductions in low carbon technology spending were informed by a value for money assessment of all planned technology programmes, which included an assessment of the expected impact of the programme on climate change targets, as well as other factors such as UK energy security and the programmes' ability to be delivered within a 2010-11 timescale.

The Carbon Trust is a private company and the precise details of how its savings will be made is a matter for its board but Carbon Trust will this year receive up to £115 million from DECC when all grants are taken into account. In the case of deep geothermal the 2nd round call can proceed and together with the £4 million of funding spent last year will provide valuable help in the development and deployment of that technology in the UK. £5 million of funding for seven projects under the third call of offshore wind capital grants programme will—together with over £20 million awarded in previous calls—support the development of next-generation low-carbon offshore wind technologies.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to improve measurement and reporting of the contribution of central Government expenditure to delivering *(a)* the target by 2020 of a seven-fold increase from the 2008 baseline in the amount of energy generated by renewable resources and *(b)* the contribution of such expenditure to 2050 targets; and if he will make a statement. [10952]

Gregory Barker: From the 2010-11 financial year, DECC and delivery partners will report alongside their annual reports and accounts the income and expenditure on the major renewables policies that fall within DECC's remit. This will provide financial information to supplement the information on progress against the renewables target already published by the Department.

As set out in the June 2010 edition of Energy Trends published by this Department, progress has been made against the UK's target of 15% of energy from renewables by 2020—3% of energy consumption in 2009 came from renewable sources, up from 2.4% in 2008. Full data for 2009 will be published in the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) which will be published later this month and copies placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

There is no 2050 target for renewables, but the Government have just published the 2050 Pathways Analysis. This is a framework for understanding the potential role of different sectors in meeting the 80% emissions reduction target and ensuring secure energy supplies, and for considering some of the choices and trade-offs that will be faced over the next 40 years.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on encouraging the *(a)* growth of environmental industries and *(b)* generation of electricity by low-carbon methods, with particular reference to the manufacture of products and systems for energy generation. [11247]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to encouraging the growth of environmental industries and the generation of low carbon electricity, and today set out its overall approach to energy and climate change issues in the annual energy statement.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with banks on access to finance for *(a)* businesses in the photovoltaic manufacture, installation and supply industry and *(b)* householders and businesses to pay for such installations. [11249]

Charles Hendry: Ministers have met a number of banks in recent weeks to discuss the development of the green deal and discussions have touched on microgeneration issues, including solar photovoltaic technology. The Government recognise that this technology has an important part to play in helping to reduce carbon emissions in homes. Since April this year the main vehicle for supporting investment in solar photovoltaics is the feed-in-tariff, which is available for a range of small scale low carbon technologies.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will meet representatives of Mipower Ltd in Shrewsbury to discuss the contribution of environmental businesses to economic development. [11251]

Gregory Barker: Thank you for your invitation to meet representatives of Mipower Ltd in Shrewsbury to discuss the contribution of environmental businesses to economic development.

Can I suggest that Mipower Ltd meet officials within the Distributed Energy and Heat Team in DECC who lead on microgeneration? I would recommend Mipower Ltd contacts Paul Rochester at

paul.rochester@decc.gsi.gov.uk

to take matters forward.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons tidal technologies used to produce electricity earn two renewable obligation certificates; if he will consider the merits of increasing the number of certificates earned to three; and if he will make a statement. [11492]

Gregory Barker: The renewables obligation (RO) is the Government's main mechanism for incentivising investment in large-scale renewable electricity. It supports a wide range of technologies with a view to help deliver the required level of generation necessary to meet our target of sourcing 15% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020.

Support levels for all RO supported technologies will be reviewed as part of the periodic banding review due to start in October this year. Any changes to support levels would then take effect on 1 April 2013.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had on the use of pyrolytic energy recovery technology. [11579]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any discussions on pyrolysis recently.

Government recognise that pyrolysis is an important and versatile technology which can be used to convert biomass or bio based waste into a range of energy outputs. Pyrolysis is supported through the renewables obligation, with electricity generated from liquid or gaseous fuel produced through innovative advanced pyrolysis qualifying for two renewable obligation certificates.

Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when responses to the Renewable Heat Incentive consultation will be published; and when his Department will publish its own response to the consultation. [11423]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 367-68W.

JUSTICE

Driving Offences: Fixed Penalties

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what role the County Court Bulk Centre has in respect of penalty orders issued by the Traffic Enforcement Centre. [11252]

Mr Djanogly: The County Court Bulk Centre (CCBC) is part of Northampton county court. CCBC is made up of the Claims Production Centre (CPC), the Traffic Enforcement Centre (TEC), Money Claims On Line (MCOL) and Possession Claims On Line (PCOL).

Part 75 of the Civil Procedure Rules 1998 (to be read in conjunction with Practice Direction 75) provides jurisdiction to Northampton county court (Northampton County Court Bulk Centre) under the name The Traffic Enforcement Centre to register and enforce on street parking charges, vehicle emission penalties, road user charges (congestion charges) and bus lane transgression charges.

Compensation: Armed Forces

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will review the circumstances in which the Legal Services Commission may enforce a charge for costs on compensation awards made to injured servicemen; [11297]

(2) in how many cases the Legal Services Commission enforced a charge for costs on compensation awards made to injured servicemen in the last 12 months; and what sums were charged in each case. [11298]

Mr Djanogly: Legal aid is not generally available for personal injury claims that do not result from alleged clinical negligence. However, legal aid may be granted in individual cases where particular criteria are met. These criteria include: that there is significant wider public interest in the proceedings; and that the proceedings involve allegations against a public authority concerning serious wrong-doing, abuse of position or power or significant breach of human rights.

In cases where a legally aided client gains money as a result of their funded proceedings, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) seeks to recover the public funds expended. This is a fundamental principle of the legal aid system, and ensures that money is available to fund other deserving cases. We have no plans to limit the application of the statutory charge.

The LSC does not categorise legal aid applications relating to service personnel separately from other applications. The number of legally aided cases where injured service personnel have received compensation cannot be identified.

County Courts: Finance

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running cost of Llangefni county court was in each year from 2006 to 2009. [10334]

Mr Djanogly: The operating costs of Llangefni county court in each year from 2006 to 2009 were as follows:

	Operating costs (£000)
2005-06	226.8
2006-07	210.9
2007-08	249.4
2008-09	290.5
2009-10	279.9

The operating costs exclude income but include non-cash costs, staffing costs and judicial costs incurred by HM Courts Service.

County Courts: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of the operation of Redditch county court in each of the next three years. [10453]

Mr Djanogly: The outcome of the spending review 2010 (SR10) will be announced on 20 October. The Ministry of Justice's SR10 submission incorporates high level assumptions in respect to future expenditure and savings. Until the SR10 settlement is agreed with HMT and the internal MOJ Business Group allocations are completed, detailed financial information at the level requested is not available.

For the hon. Member's information, the operating costs of Redditch county court for the last three years are given in the following table. The operating costs exclude income but include non-cash, staff and judicial costs. It should be noted that there is a policy of recovering the costs for county courts through fee income from court users accessing county court services.

	£
2007-08	493,463
2008-09	510,412
2009-10	471,114

County Courts: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he made of the proportion of available court time in each chamber of Rhyl county court during which the court sat in the latest period for which figures are available. [10851]

Mr Djanogly: Information on days sat at Rhyl county court and the proportion of these as a percentage of available sitting days is given in the table.

Court (day sat)	*Judge Type*	*Total days sat (non High Court work)*
April 2008 - March 2009	Circuit Bench	172.5
	District Bench	258.5
	Total	431
April 2009 - March 2010	Circuit Bench	147.5
	District Bench	242.5
	Total	433

Available sitting days in both 2008-09 and 2009-10 were 506 (this figure assumes that both chambers and courtroom were available every working day throughout the periods). The percentage of days sat in 2008-09 was therefore 85% and in 2009-10 it was 79%.

Notes:

Rhyl County Court has one circuit judge court and one District Judge Chambers. The Circuit Bench is inclusive of High Court Judges, Deputy High Court Judges Circuit Judges, Deputy Circuit Judges and Recorders. District Judges includes District Judges and Deputy District Judges.

Courts

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many warrants for the arrest of *(a)* defendants and *(b)* witnesses resident in the former Minehead court area have been issued for failure to appear at courts in Bridgewater or Taunton since the closure of Minehead courthouse; [11024]

(2) how many defendants appeared at Bridgwater magistrates court in each of the last five years; and how many such defendants gave addresses in Bridgwater; [11025]

(3) how many truancy cases were heard in courts in *(a)* Bridgwater and *(b)* Taunton in each of the last five years; [11026]

(4) how many court cases were adjourned owing to files held at Taunton courthouse not having been made available in the last two years. [11027]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not held centrally as it is not recorded by court staff electronically as part of their routine daily administrative duties. The only means to collect these data would be the inspection of each individual case file at disproportionate cost.

Courts: Closures

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons he decided to propose the closure of courts in Rhyl and Denbigh. [10831]

Mr Djanogly: In order to form the proposals for closure, the principles contained within consultation paper CP15/10 were considered. Particular regard was paid to the respective utilisation rates and the opportunity to rationalise the court estate within reasonable travelling distances of communities.

Courts: Operating Costs

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the operating costs were of each court in Wales in each of the last three years; [11393]

(2) how much was spent on refurbishment and maintenance at each court in Wales in each of the last three financial years. [11304]

Mr Djanogly: The operating costs and the resource maintenance and improvements costs for each court in Wales for the last three full financial years are shown in the following table.

The operating costs exclude income but include non-cash costs, staffing costs and judicial costs incurred by HM Courts Service. The operating costs are inclusive of the resource maintenance and improvement costs.

	Operating expenditure (£000)			*Maintenance and improvements expenditure (£000)*		
Name of court	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Aberdare magistrates and county court	522.4	420.4	614.3	82.8	85.7	49.0
Abergavenny magistrates court	363.9	218.7	242.2	26.1	21.6	20.8
Abertillery magistrates court	139.1	138.7	125.8	23.5	22.1	25.8
Aberystwyth county court	262.1	215.1	191.6	11.5	25.7	26.2
Aberystwyth magistrates court	83.7	44.0	66.4	10.2	16.7	13.3
Ammanford magistrates court	71.8	59.5	132.2	19.1	10.3	86.2
Barry magistrates court	918.3	1,308.4	1,140.8	75.1	386.0	79.0
Blackwood civil and family centre	941.9	1,095.8	986.2	107.0	25.1	35.0
Brecon law courts	553.2	561.9	536.9	35.8	49.3	48.7
Bridgend magistrates court	1,653.5	1,660.8	1,763.4	45.0	57.6	62.1
Caernarfon county court	464.9	488.4	506.7	34.4	13.9	29.3
Caernarfon crown and magistrates court	1,502.1	1,276.3	3,794.5	33.3	31.8	64.1
Caerphilly magistrates court	226.3	709.0	371.8	35.1	90.9	55.0
Cardiff civil justice centre	3,431.5	3,041.0	4,702.7	550.7	78.2	126.8
Cardiff crown court	3,432.8	4,203.7	3,718.3	300.6	389.7	162.7

	Operating expenditure (£000)			*Maintenance and improvements expenditure (£000)*		
Name of court	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cardiff magistrates court	3,743.5	3,772.2	5,896.7	351.5	236.0	253.6
Cardigan magistrates court	40.9	95.2	98.0	13.2	22.7	31.5
Carmarthen county court	467.8	403.7	355.8	45.5	30.1	38.8
Carmarthen magistrates court	303.7	265.5	414.3	194.3	122.2	74.7
Chepstow magistrates court	0.2	—	2.9	—	—	—
Conwy and Colwyn Bay county court	147.1	192.2	173.1	5.9	13.6	1.0
Cwmbran magistrates court	244.6	316.5	396.8	89.7	54.8	37.5
Denbigh magistrates court	83.9	109.9	101.3	29.9	41.6	24.9
Dolgellau crown and magistrates court	132.7	66.3	62.3	46.8	32.4	13.7
Flint magistrates court	69.9	-4.3	102.7	12.9	12.6	7.3
Haverfordwest law courts	1,123.4	1,191.5	1,558.0	46.5	75.0	408.5
Holyhead magistrates court (North Anglesey)	163.9	127.2	81.7	98.7	36.4	16.7
Llandrindod Wells magistrates court	65.1	81.8	63.9	17.5	19.1	13.4
Llandudno magistrates court	1,283.5	1,531.3	1,807.5	44.7	136.2	41.7
Llanelli magistrates and county court	1,485.3	1,236.2	1,544.6	143.5	143.5	95.0
Llangefni county court	249.4	290.5	279.9	15.4	33.9	41.2
Llangefni magistrates court	24.1	72.7	15.2	13.4	8.6	8.8
Llwynypia magistrates court	258.6	292.3	337.4	40.1	41.8	49.9
Merthyr Tydfil combined court	5,358.9	6,172.3	3,230.8	610.5	-119.7	75.3
Mold court complex	1,484.7	1,878.9	1,616.9	119.1	216.5	115.0
Neath and Port Talbot county court	488.2	564.1	558.5	23.7	45.3	18.3
Neath magistrates court	956.3	964.3	1,018.1	89.2	59.2	93.9
Newport county court	154.7	211.9	614.7	16.5	72.0	148.9
Newport county court (Olympia House)	1,059.5	1,041.1	1,018.5	16.9	18.3	113.9
Newport crown court	1,229.3	1,431.5	1,247.9	75.2	85.2	70.4
Newport magistrates court (Civic Centre)	190.6	300.0	445.1	48.2	46.8	44.8
Newport magistrates court (Pentonville)	433.2	120.8	72.7	21.0	24.0	21.5
Pontypool county court	147.5	113.8	118.3	12.6	16.9	14.7
Pontypridd county court	684.6	853.3	965.6	36.5	138.5	27.3
Pontypridd magistrates court	1,091.9	1,513.9	923.2	57.8	287.0	41.0
Port Talbot magistrates court	296.7	192.6	397.8	56.0	51.9	41.2
Prestatyn magistrates court (Rhuddlan)	146.3	176.4	241.4	38.6	-38.7	33.9
Pwllheli magistrates court	34.6	56.4	45.6	13.3	19.5	17.9
Rhyl county court	528.7	583.5	657.0	33.4	22.8	31.7
Swansea civil justice centre	2,221.4	2,001.3	2,109.5	237.2	95.8	200.6
Swansea crown court	569.1	662.4	1,001.5	86.3	133.0	22.7
Swansea crown court offices	1,989.1	1,873.0	1,983.0	331.7	88.4	73.2
Swansea magistrates court	1,790.9	1,750.8	1,696.8	195.7	137.6	42.4
Welshpool magistrates and county court	247.2	443.7	458.7	38.5	27.8	72.4
Wrexham county court	637.8	678.6	712.0	8.7	8.3	8.7
Wrexham magistrates court	1,492.8	1,636.9	1,542.8	83.4	74.6	50.7

Courts: Security

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many security staff work for HM Courts Service. [10789]

Mr Djanogly: There are 55 directly employed security guards working for HM Courts Service (HMCS) at the Royal Courts of Justice. A further 57 guards at the Central Criminal Court are provided by Corporation of London. However, the majority of security guards currently deployed across the HMCS estate are provided under contract through third party providers. As at June 2010 there were approximately 1,439 security staff working at HMCS sites and a further 72 working at Tribunals Service sites. A complement of circa 300 guards is also available to draw on to cover leave/sick absences. At a minority of HMCS sites, a further (estimated) 24-30 security staff are provided under the terms of occupational lease agreements.

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many security staff working at each court for HM Courts Service are employees of MITIE Group plc; what assessment he has made of the effects of implementation of his proposals for court closures on the number of such employees working for the court service; and if he will make a statement. [10790]

Mr Djanogly: There are 1,439 security staff employed by MITIE working at HMCS courts. There is also a complement of about 300 guards available to draw on to cover leave, or sick absence.

The consultations on court estate proposals began on 23 June 2010 and will close on 15 September 2010. No specific assessment has been of the effects of any court closure on MITIE employees working for HMCS. However, I encourage MITIE and its individual employees to respond to the consultation and their response will be considered as part of decisions on whether and which courts to close.

Courts: Taunton

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many days each court in *(a)* Taunton and *(b)* Bridgwater sat in each of the last five years. [11029]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is shown in the following table.

				Hours				
Court/period	*Available to magistrates*	*Available to other users*	*Total available hours*	*Criminal utilisation*	*Civil utilisation*	*Other judicial use*	*Total judicial use*	*Utilisation (percentage)*
Bridgwater								
April 2009 to March 2010	3,719.70	0	3,719.70	1,383.41	149.2	0	1,532.61	41.2
April 2008 to March 2009	3,719.70	0	3,719.70	1,625.74	174.1	6	1,805.84	48.5
April 2007 to March 2008	3,719.70	0	3,719.70	1,863.00	235.05	192.5	2,290.55	61.6
Taunton								
April 2009 to March 2010	4,959.60	0	4,959.60	2,400.89	193.35	12	2,606.24	52.5
April 2008 to March 2009	4,959.60	0	4,959.60	2,591.83	286.2	33.5	2,911.53	58.7
April 2007 to March 2008	4,959.60	0	4,959.60	2,710.00	202.3	216.5	3,128.80	63.1

Note:
The Ministry of Justice (HMCS) has obtained this electronic data from an internal management system (HMCS Performance Database). The data required for Bridgewater and Taunton Magistrates courts can be obtained centrally as far back as financial year 2007-08. All magistrates courts have only ever recorded sitting hours. Sitting days are not available in this jurisdiction.

Courts: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were heard in each court in Wales in each of the last three years. [11396]

Mr Djanogly: Information on the workload of the magistrates courts, county courts and the Crown court in Wales for each of the last three years is provided in the following tables.

Table 1: Completed proceedings in magistrates courts local justice areas

Local justice area	*Financial year*	*Volume*
Carmarthen	2007-08	3,034
	2008-09	2,480
	2009-10	2,042
Ceredigion	2007-08	2,398
	2008-09	2,222
	2009-10	2,278
De Brycheiniog	2007-08	1,290
	2008-09	1,087
	2009-10	1,425
Dinefwr	2007-08	1,703
	2008-09	1,639
	2009-10	1,080
		9
Llanelli	2007-08	3,778

Table 1: Completed proceedings in magistrates courts local justice areas

Local justice area	*Financial year*	*Volume*
	2008-09	4,350
	2009-10	5,074
Montgomeryshire	2007-08	2,195
	2008-09	2,435
	2009-10	2,408
Neath and Port Talbot	2007-08	8,171
	2008-09	7,733
	2009-10	7,778
Pembrokeshire	2007-08	5,213
	2008-09	5,218
	2009-10	4,623
Radnorshire and North Brecknock	2007-08	548
	2008-09	625
	2009-10	709
Swansea	2007-08	17,551
	2008-09	16,940
	2009-10	15,602
Anglesey (Ynys Mon)	2007-08	3,473
	2008-09	3,256
	2009-10	2,765
Conwy	2007-08	5,722
	2008-09	5,871
	2009-10	6,032
Denbighshire	2007-08	6,213
	2008-09	6,205
	2009-10	6,467
Flintshire	2007-08	5,800
	2008-09	5,328
	2009-10	6,731
Gwynedd	2007-08	5,998
	2008-09	5,428
	2009-10	6,260
Wrexham Maelor	2007-08	9,614
	2008-09	9,472
	2009-10	10,487
Cardiff	2007-08	32,661
	2008-09	32,576
	2009-10	28,179
Cynon Valley	2007-08	3,557
	2008-09	3,831
	2009-10	3,188
Gwent	2007-08	33,668
	2008-09	29,182
	2009-10	31,166
Merthyr Tydfil	2007-08	6,480
	2008-09	6,076
	2009-10	5,850
Miskin	2007-08	12,385
	2008-09	11,209
	2009-10	10,006
Newcastle and Ogmore	2007-08	9,184
	2008-09	7,843
	2009-10	7,351
Vale of Glamorgan	2007-08	7,724
	2008-09	7,154
	2009-10	6,325

Notes:

1. 'Volume' includes Criminal, Civil and Family proceedings, Means Enquiries, and Rights to Representation.
2. Information is only available at local justice area and includes all the courts within Wales.
3. The data come from an internal management system. The data are subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and are based on the data currently available.

Table 2: Private and public law family orders made (counted by child) in county courts and the District Registry of the High Court in Wales, 2006-07 to 2008-09

	County courts			*High Court*		
Court name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Aberystwyth	146	128	138	0	0	0
Blackwood	345	305	510	0	0	0
Brecknock	38	46	38	0	10	0
Bridgend	23 3	164	193	2	0	0
Caernarfon	309	405	370	1	11	14
Cardiff	1,088	991	927	27	12	5
Carmarthen	132	122	176	0	0	0
Haverfordwest	245	240	181	0	0	0
Llanelli	338	379	292	3	0	0
Llangefni	194	137	265	0	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	168	151	201	0	0	0
Neath and Port Talbot	261	285	247	1	0	0
Newport, Gwent	1,018	1,123	1,073	21	10	2
Pontypridd	813	646	842	3	0	3
Rhyl	366	417	490	15	22	62
Swansea	719	830	886	28	7	6
Welshpool	73	81	110	0	0	0
Wrexham	297	267	267	2	2	2
All Wales	6,783	6,717	7,198	103	74	94

Notes:

1. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.
2. Public law refers to child protection cases where a local authority is stepping in to protect a child from harm. Private law refers to cases where there is a dispute between two or more private individuals regarding a child. For example, over where he/she is to live or whether someone should have contact with him/her. Both are cases brought under the Children Act 1989.
3. Statistics for 2009-10 are not yet available; 2009 data are due to be published in September 2010.

Source:

HM Courts Service FamilyMan system

Table 3: Completed family court proceedings in Wales county courts, 2007-08 to 2009-10

Court name	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Aberystwyth	309	267	233
Blackwood	1,164	1,059	948
Brecknock	235	219	173
Bridgend	812	735	703
Caernarfon	765	579	636
Cardiff	1,952	1,640	1,431
Carmarthen	402	398	283
Haverfordwest	615	488	498
Llanelli	784	1,086	1,343
Llangefni	285	249	252
Merthyr Tydfil	330	286	313
Neath and Port Talbot	790	578	572
Newport, Gwent	1,156	934	941
Pontypridd	792	606	799
Rhyl	692	666	409
Swansea	966	883	1,434
Welshpool	613	554	530
Wrexham	794	738	608
All Wales	13,453	11,877	12,117

Notes:
1. Figures include orders made in the District Registry of the High Court, and exclude public and private law cases.
2. Figures include cases related to domestic violence injunctions, dissolution and nullity of marriage and ancillary relief.
3. One case may include more than one type of ancillary relief order.
Source:
HM Courts Service FamilyMan system.

Table 4: The total number of civil (non-family) cases heard in each county court in Wales for the last full three financial years

Court name	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Aberdare	307	326	272
Aberystwyth	111	138	128
Blackwood	1,084	1,033	777
Brecknock	85	106	88
Bridgend	867	858	651
Caernarfon	280	324	271
Cardiff	2,511	2,625	2,151
Carmarthen	298	321	272
Conwy and Colwyn	326	403	321
Haverfordwest	422	384	361
Llanelli	408	478	345
Llangefni	193	185	163
Merthyr Tydfil	362	363	278
Mold	379	414	328
Neath and Port Talbot	685	688	630
Newport, Gwent	1,637	1,530	1,301
Pontypool	398	384	435
Pontypridd	829	822	721
Rhyl	619	634	478
Swansea	1,307	1,357	1,096
Welshpool	160	153	145
Wrexham	837	847	667

Note:
Total number of civil proceedings completed in the Welsh county courts includes all cases disposed of by a trial or small claim hearing, or which saw an order for possession of property made at a hearing.
Source:
HM Courts Service CaseMan system and Possession Claim On-Line system

Table 5: Crown court cases dealt with in Wales, 2007-08 to 2009-10

Crown court centre	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Caernarfon	468	481	522
Cardiff	4,014	4,414	3,643
Carmarthen	411	421	410
Dolgellau	0	0	0
Haverfordwest	172	146	148
Merthyr Tydfil	304	444	1,084
Mold	829	930	1,042
Swansea	1,088	1,153	1,175
Welshpool	0	0	0

Note:
1. Crown court cases includes cases committed/sent for trial, committed for sentence and appeals against magistrates courts decisions.
2. Some of the centres listed above are 'satellite' courts of main centres, those main courts and satellites are listed in the following list.
Source:
HM Courts Service CREST System

Satellites of Mold

Caernarfon
Dolgellau
Welshpool

Satellites of Swansea

Carmarthen
Haverfordwest

Crimes of Violence: Sentencing

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders sentenced to prison terms of six months or less were sentenced for violent offences. [11348]

Mr Blunt: The number of offenders sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence of six months or less for violent indictable offences, non-violent indictable offences and all indictable offences, and the proportion they are of total indictable offences, England and Wales 2008 (latest available) are shown in the table as follows.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of offenders sentenced to immediate custodial sentences of six months or less, by indictable offence group[1], England and Wales 2008[2,3,4]

Offence category/ group	*Immediate custodial sentence of six month or less*	*Proportion of the total sentenced for indictable offences (%)*
Violent indictable offences		
Violence against the person	4,742	—
Sexual offences	285	—
Robbery	317	—
Total	5,344	14
Non-violent indictable offences		
Burglary	3,563	—
Theft and handling stolen goods	18,515	—
Fraud and forgery	2,149	—
Criminal damage	564	—
Drug offences	1,781	—
Other indictable offences	5,207	—
Indictable motoring offences	493	—

Number of offenders sentenced to immediate custodial sentences of six months or less, by indictable offence group[1], England and Wales 2008[2,3,4]

Offence category/group	*Immediate custodial sentence of six month or less*	*Proportion of the total sentenced for indictable offences (%)*
Total	32,272	86
Total indictable offences	37,616	100

[1] Summary offences have not been included as they are not categorised into violent or non-violent offences

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics - Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Debt Management : Regulation

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which organisations officials of his Department have met to discuss regulation of the debt management sector since 6 May 2010; [11472]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken on alternative regulatory models to the system of self-regulation in the debt management sector since 6 May 2010; [11473]

(3) what estimate the Government have made of *(a)* the number of people who will be in debt management plans where fees have been charged by the end of 2010 and *(b)* the total amount of fees that will have been incurred by customers entering into debt management plans in 2010; [11474]

(4) when he expects to publish the response to his Department's consultation on debt management schemes; whether a summary of responses will be published; and which Department will be responsible for implementing the decisions made; [11476]

Mr Djanogly: Officials at the Ministry of Justice speak to a wide range of interested parties as part of conducting the business of government. However, since 6 May 2010 there have been no meetings with any organisations to discuss debt management, nor has been any further research on alternative regulatory models to the system of self-regulation in that sector.

The consultation on debt management schemes that closed on 18 December 2009 looked at the way that debtors deal with their indebtedness. It asked for evidence on whether the powers contained in Chapter 4 of Part 5 of the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act (TCEA) 2007 to approve operators of Debt Management Schemes (DMS) should be introduced or whether the taking of other steps to make sure that debtors are protected and creditors' interests are safeguarded would be more appropriate.

There is currently very little empirical data relating to debt management plans. It is estimated that 100,000 to 150,000 individual plans are created each year, with up to 700,000 plans in existence at any one time. However, there is no definitive data on either the proportion of these where fees are charged, or the nature and level of any fees that may be charged by different providers.

An initial impact assessment was published alongside the consultation paper which considered the potential effectiveness of all of the options contained in the consultation paper. The impact assessment contained a number of questions which sought to obtain information relating to each of the options. However, the few responses to these questions contained very little factual information relating to these options. Consequently, it is not possible to make any estimate about the total amount of fees that will have been incurred by customers entering into debt management plans.

Officials at the MoJ have recently completed a full analysis of the views and opinions offered by all interested parties to the debt management consultation. The Government will consider the results of the consultation before deciding what further action to take, and will publish its response shortly.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11379]

Mr Djanogly: The percentage of payments made within 10 days to all suppliers for the last three months are:

	Percentage
April 2010	95
May 2010	93
June 2010	93

The Department does not keep records on payments made to small and medium-sized suppliers, as to attempt to break the payment performance down further between SMEs and all creditors by the Department and its agencies would incur disproportionate costs.

As the Department's payment processes are now predicated on achieving the cross-Government prompt payment targets performance for all suppliers against individual supplier terms are not measured.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9673]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Guidance on ministerial preferences is an effective way of making sure Ministers are able to fulfil their obligations to Parliament and the public to the highest standards possible. Ministers' private offices have therefore issued guidance on the departmental intranet as necessary setting out each Minister's preferences for briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's budget for consultants is for 2010-11. [9212]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Department's budget for consultancy for 2010-11 is £23.546 million. This was the initial identified allocation, and has not been amended following the new cross Government freeze on new consultancy spend.

We are committed to implementing this freeze and hope to reduce the anticipated spend. All new consultancy contracts over £20,000 must now be signed off by a departmental Minister and notified to the Efficiency Reform Group and HM Treasury Spending teams.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7965]

Mr Blunt: The cost to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for the use of the Government Car Service for the period 12 May 2010 to 12 July 2010 is £67,402.79. This expenditure covers use of the Government Car Service by the Ministry of Justice headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian and the National Offenders Management Service (NOMS). The figures are for amounts invoiced by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in the period and may relate in part to journeys taken prior to 12 May 2010. Average monthly expenditure on the Government Car Service in 2008-09 was £110,000 per month, giving an indicative equivalent figure of £220,000 for the same period last year. These figures are currently unaudited.

Due to the process used to account for expenditure, a small proportion of costs may relate to the previous Administration in the early part of May and some recent journeys may not yet have been accrued for on the accounting system. It would incur disproportionate cost to quantify these issues as individual order details would need to be retrieved and scrutinised.

The Home Office provides the arrangements in relation to the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice, who also has ministerial responsibilities at the Ministry of Justice.

The new ministerial code, published on 21 May 2010, contains changes that affect ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car. It states that

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed".

The Department for Transport and its Government Car and Despatch Agency are working with Departments to effect the transition to the new arrangements.

The ministerial code is available on the Cabinet Office website.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10117]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The only expenditure of this nature was by me, as Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor on the following events:

	Event	*Amount (£)*
17 May 2010	Reception with MOJ Director Generals	20.80
25 May 2010	Lord Chancellor's reception (State Opening of Parliament)	1,208.56
9 June 2010	Reception and dinner for British-Israeli legal exchange	5,102.59
17 June 2010	Reception for key figures in the Legal and Criminal Justice system	854.75

All hospitality is closely scrutinised and carefully monitored to ensure good value for taxpayers' money and that it stays within the appropriate rules and guidelines.

First Offenders

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted for a first offence of a non-violent and non-sexual nature have been sentenced to a prison term in each year since 2005. [11559]

Mr Blunt: Figures for the total number of offenders who were convicted for a first offence of a non-violent and non-sexual nature and sentenced to a prison term in each year since 2005 are shown in the following table:

Number of offenders who were convicted and sentenced to immediate custody for a first offence of a non-violent and non-sexual nature in England and Wales, 2005-08, indictable offence only[1, 2]

Sentencing year	*All*	*Immediate custody*	*(%)*
2005	26,761	6,010	22.5
2006	25,397	5,980	23.5
2007	25,775	6,896	26.8
2008	25,096	7,201	28.7

[1] Including indictable and trial either ways offences

[2] Counts of offenders sentenced during the year, an offender may be counted more once if an offender had been sentenced more than once

These figures are a further breakdown of those in Table 6.7 of 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' which was published on 28 January 2010 and can be found at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Fixed Penalties: Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalties have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* paid in each of the last three months for shop theft; and if he will make a statement. [10849]

Mr Blunt: Data on the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued and paid in full for theft (retail under £200) to all persons aged 16 and over, in England and Wales, 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table. Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

The figures presented for the number of PNDs paid in full reflect the number of PNDs that have been paid without any court action being taken.

We will be considering our approach to all out of court disposals, including fixed penalty notices for shoplifting, as part of the sentencing assessment.

Under our programme for Government for the next five years, we will conduct a full assessment of sentencing policy to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting reoffending.

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued and paid in full for theft (retail under £200) to all persons aged 16 and over, by month, England and Wales 2008[1] [2]

	Issued	*Paid in full*
January	3,394	1,573
February	3,597	1,629
March	3,708	1,726
April	3,707	1,650
May	3,680	1,709
June	3,919	1,751
July	3,833	1,671
August	3,587	1,607
September	3,679	1,648
October	4,194	1,940
November	4,108	1,953
December	4,210	2,046
Annual	45,616	20,903

[1] The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) scheme was rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Under the scheme, the police are able to issue penalty notices (£50 or £80) for a range of minor offences some of which attract a higher tariff. The recipient of a PND has 21 days to either pay the penalty or seek a court hearing. No admission of guilt is required and the PND recipient discharges all liability for the offence and receives no criminal record, if the penalty is paid. If no action is taken a fine of one and half the penalty amount is registered against the recipient of the notice. The courts are responsible for enforcing fines arising from PNDs in the same way as any other unpaid fine.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

HM Courts Service

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the consultation by HM Courts Service on the provision of courts services in Devon and Cornwall, Avon and Somerset and Gloucestershire will include an assessment of the likely effect on the sitting times of Taunton magistrates court in the event of the closure of Bridgwater magistrates court. [11541]

Mr Djanogly: Our assessment is that Taunton magistrates court has sufficient capacity to deal with any additional work that it receives if Bridgwater were to close. The proposals are designed to ensure that sitting days are fully utilised but we do not predict that Taunton magistrates court will need to sit beyond the target of five hours per courtroom per day.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the future use of the Bridgwater magistrates court building should the consultation by HM Courts Service on the provision of courts services in Devon and Cornwall, Avon and Somerset and Gloucestershire recommend its closure. [11542]

Mr Djanogly: No decisions on closures have been made or will be made until all the responses to the public consultations have been considered. The consultations will be vital in deciding the approach to the retention or closure of courthouses within the HMCS estate. It would be premature to discuss future use of court buildings during the consultation phase.

Human Rights: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether Andrew Williamson and Peter Smallridge received legal advice from his Department on the use of force and the human rights of children in the course of their review of the use of restraint in juvenile secure settings. [11136]

Mr Blunt: We have no record of receiving a request for legal advice from the co-chairs of the independent review. However, the Government's response to the review was informed by legal advice.

Insurance: Households

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of householders who have legal insurance; and if he will make a statement. [10848]

Mr Djanogly: Legal expenses insurance (often referred to as before the event insurance) pays or contributes to the policyholder's legal expenses in circumstances prescribed by the policy. This type of insurance cover is commonly purchased as an add-on to other insurance policies such as home or motor insurance. However, it may be taken out by individuals as a stand-alone policy.

The Government do not routinely collect data on the number and proportion of householders who have legal insurance. However, a report prepared for the Ministry of Justice in 2007 estimated that 59% of people had some form of legal expenses insurance overall. Of those 35% had legal expenses insurance as part of their home insurance. A copy of the report is available at

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/legal-exp-ins-report.htm

Judges

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many district judges there were in each year from 2003 to 2009. [10335]

Mr Djanogly: The numbers of district judges in post as at 1 April each year from 2003 to 2009 are set out in the following table. This information is also available on the Judiciary of England & Wales website at

www.judiciary.gov.uk

As at 1 April	*District Judge*	*Deputy District Judge*	*District Judge (magistrates courts)*	*Deputy District Judge (magistrates courts)*
2003	426	787	104	174
2004	433	801	104	173
2005	430	826	128	167
2006	449	840	134	158
2007	450	780	139	169
2008	438	773	136	167
2009	444	668	134	166

Legal Aid : Expenditure

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what legal aid expenditure was on immigration appeals in *(a)* London and *(b)* nationally in each financial year since 2005-06. [11801]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to identify expenditure for initial advice from expenditure before the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal in cases where work under both levels of service is provided, nor is it possible to identify immigration expenditure from asylum expenditure under a legal aid certificate. The overall legal aid expenditure on immigration and asylum in London, and nationally, for each year since 2005-06, is provided in the following table.

£ million

	London	*National (including London)*
2005-06	49	86
2006-07	37	73
2007-08	44	80
2008-09	44	82
2009-10	46	85

Legal Services Commission: Finance

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has for future funding for the Legal Services Commission. [11122]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: As part of our spending review planning and negotiation, we are considering a number of options to reduce legal aid spend over the course of the spending review period. We intend to seek views on our proposed new approach in the autumn.

It has already been announced that we plan to move the Legal Services Commission to become an Executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, which will streamline accountability.

Magistrates Courts

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of courthouse provision in Taunton in the event of the closure of Bridgwater magistrates court. [11030]

Mr Djanogly: Bridgwater magistrates court is the only court in the Sedgmoor Local Justice Area. The closure of the court would require the merger of the Taunton Dean and West Somerset Local Justice Area and the Sedgemoor Local Justice Area. The proposal is to close Bridgwater and transfer work to Taunton magistrates court, which is 12 miles and a 20 minute car journey away.

Bridgwater has a very low utilisation rate of 41.2%. The court is not permanently staffed and does not provide a public counter service; staff at Taunton currently travel to Bridgwater for hearings. Taunton magistrates court has a utilisation rate of 52.5% and could accommodate the workload from Bridgwater, should it close.

Should the decision to close Bridgwater magistrates court be taken, a full implementation plan will be produced to ensure the smooth transfer of work. This will include some minor work in Taunton magistrates court to prepare it to receive the additional work.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what capital expenditure was incurred in maintenance of the building housing Llangefni magistrates court in each year from 2006 to 2009. [10462]

Mr Djanogly: The capital costs for Llangefni magistrates court were zero for each of these years. The resource maintenance figures for these years, which form part of the overall running costs, are provided in the following table.

	£
2005-06	1,841
2006-07	8,278
2007-08	12,714
2008-09	9,258
2009-10	8,834

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the consultation of HM Courts Service on proposals on the provision of courts services in North and West Yorkshire, what factors he took into account in determining that the closure of Skipton magistrates and county courts would remove the requirement for the allocation of HM Courts Service funding of £310,000 for backlog maintenance. [11116]

Mr Djanogly: The maintenance backlog figure comprises several elements of maintenance work including: heating and plumbing; decoration; roofing; ventilation and air-conditioning and external works. Assessments of backlog maintenance are provided by professional Managing Agents using Condition Surveys and reference to their Forward Maintenance Register.

As indicated in the consultation papers, if Skipton magistrates court and Skipton county court (which are co-located in the same building) were to close it would remove the need for HMCS investment in backlog maintenance of around £310,000. The maintenance backlog figures given in the consultation papers are based on data as at July 2009 (the most recent at time of publication). The figures will be updated with July 2010 data for the purpose of the impact assessment which will be published alongside the consultation responses.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an equality impact assessment in respect of the proposed closure of *(a)* Denbigh magistrates court and *(b)* Rhyl county court. [10832]

Mr Djanogly: An equality impact assessment (EIA) initial screening has been produced for the court estate rationalisation programme. The EIA initial screening identifies that there are likely to be equality impacts should courts close and that further information is required. We will be working throughout the consultation period to gather this information and are seeking views on equality impacts through the consultation process. We will produce a full impact assessment for each HMCS area to inform any decision on whether and which courts should close.

Magistrates Courts: Domestic Violence

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which of the magistrates courts being reviewed for closure have an associated specialist domestic violence court. [11932]

Mr Djanogly: Of the 103 magistrates courts on whose closure we are consulting, 25 are currently part of an accredited Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) system. These are:

Knowsley
Whitehaven
Salford
Goole
Selby
Pontefract
Barry
West Bromwich
Rugby
Towcester
Daventry
Kettering
Lewes
Hemel Hempstead
Newbury
Tamworth
Newton Abbot
Spalding
Acton
Aberdare
Bridgwater*
Andover*
Alton*
Grays*
Haringey*

For 20 of these courts it is proposed to move the work of the existing SDVC to another accredited SDVC should the courts close. In the remaining five cases (those starred above) the proposals involve the transfer of the SDVC work to a court that is currently not designated as a Specialist Domestic Violence Court, should those courts close.

In conjunction with the National Steering Group, we are currently reviewing the provision of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts in those areas where their provision may be affected.

Magistrates Courts: West Sussex

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* criminal cases, *(b)* individual hearings in criminal cases and *(c)* non-criminal cases were handled by each magistrates court in West Sussex in each of the last five years. [10622]

Mr Djanogly: Information is only available on the number of criminal cases and non-criminal cases for West Sussex Local Justice Area (LJA), which includes Chichester and Worthing magistrates courts, since 2007. This can be found in the following table:

Completed proceedings: West Sussex[1]

	Criminal cases	*Non criminal cases*[2]
2007-08[3]	12,684	4,558
2008-09	7,763	3,785
2009-10	12,207	3,791

[1] Information is only available at Local Justice Area level and includes all the courts within this LJA (Chichester and Worthing).
[2] Civil, Family, Means Inquiries and Rights to Representation.
[3] Prior to April 2007, the data was not collected centrally. For this reason, the data is from 2007-08.
Note:
The data comes from an internal management system. The data is subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and is based on the data currently available.

The completed proceedings data above include cases that have a final outcome. They do not include the number of hearings a case may have had or any cases that are in the process of being heard.

However, information is held on the average number of hearings for West Sussex LJA. This can be found in the following table:

Average number of hearings for defendants in all criminal cases—target: 2.25 hearings: West Sussex[1]

Period	*Average number of hearings*[2] *(target 2.25 hearings)*
September 2007	2.76
March 2008	2.79
September 2008	2.62
March 2009	2.35
September 2009	2.27
March 2010	2.53

[1] Information is only available at Local Justice Area and includes all the courts within this LJA (Chichester and Worthing).
[2] The average number of individual hearings for each criminal defendant (data above) is recorded via the Ministry of Justice Time Internal Survey. In March and September of each year the survey covers all defendants in completed criminal cases. As a year on year comparison, the same period should be used, as this is representative of the caseload during that period of the year (i.e. March 2008 should be compared with March 2007).
Note:
The average includes a mixture of cases that may have adjournments and cases that could also be completed after first listing.

Magistrates: Gwynedd

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many justices of the peace there were in the county of Gwynedd in each year from 2006 to 2009; [10466]

(2) how many justices of the peace sat as magistrates in the county of Gwynedd in each year from 2006 to 2009. [10467]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Justices of the Peace for Gwynedd covers two benches—Gwynedd and Ynys-Mon/Anglesey. It should be noted that benches do not necessarily correspond to county lines. It is not, therefore, possible to give exact figures for magistrates (aka Justices of the Peace) allocated to a particular county. The following table shows all recorded magistrates covered by the Gwynedd Advisory Committee area from 2006 to 2009 (this includes magistrates who were not actively sitting during the period).

	Number
31 March 2006	122
31 March 2007	140
31 March 2008	139
31 March 2009	154

The following table shows those magistrates who were actively sitting in the area from 2006 to 2009.

	Number
31 March 2006	89
31 March 2007	102
31 March 2008	105
31 March 2009	111

Mesothelioma: Compensation

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to help expedite compensation claims for those who have developed mesothelioma. [11219]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are committed to supporting people suffering from mesothelioma and we are considering how this can best be achieved. In particular, officials are currently undertaking scoping work to consider options to speed up and improve the claims process in relation to compensation claims for mesothelioma and will involve representatives from claimant solicitors, insurers and the judiciary. I expect to receive detailed advice on this in the autumn.

Money Laundering: Corruption

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to article 57 of the United Nations convention against corruption 2004, what embezzled public funds the Serious and Organised Crime Agency has returned to victim Governments following convictions in the UK for money laundering and corruption in the last five years. [11526]

Nick Herbert: SOCA is one of a number of UK law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation of the proceeds of corruption. SOCA does not have a role in the return of recovered funds to victim countries. Confiscation of assets is a matter for the courts. The subsequent enforcement of a court order is the responsibility of Her Majesty's Court Service. The return of recovered assets is the responsibility of the Government.

According to the latest data we hold, £1.37 million has been returned following convictions in the UK; a further £16.4 million has been recovered through civil actions launched by the Government of Nigeria in the UK building on Metropolitan police case work.

A further £162 million is frozen in the UK (as a result of Metropolitan police and SOCA work).

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of budgetary reductions in his Department on the implementation of his proposals for the rehabilitation of offenders. [11305]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Over the coming months we will be developing a new approach to rehabilitation so that the public are protected and the level of reoffending is reduced. We intend to increase opportunities for the private and not-for-profit sectors to become involved in rehabilitation work and be paid for their results. We intend to set out more detail on these proposals as well as on an assessment of sentencing policy in a Green Paper in the autumn.

Relevant resource decisions will be made in light of these policy developments and the spending review.

Office of the Public Guardian

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many investigations have been conducted by the Office of the Public Guardian in each of the last three years; and how many of these have resulted in consequent action being taken by the Public Guardian. [11920]

Mr Djanogly: The functions of the Office of the Public Guardian, as laid down in section 58 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, include the ability to investigate any concerns around the way in which an attorney, appointed either under a registered enduring power of attorney (EPA) or lasting power of attorney (LPA), or a deputy appointed by the Court of Protection is carrying out their responsibilities.

Since 1 October 2007 the OPG has received a total of 2,559 referrals, all of which undergo an initial assessment in order to ascertain the level of risk to the vulnerable adult and the priority of the situation. After this initial assessment the cases were dealt with as follows:

1,195 required a more formal in depth investigation by the OPG;

1,080 were signposted to social services department, the police or elsewhere (because they fell outside the OPG's jurisdiction);

284 resulted in no other action being taken as the referral was found to warrant no action.

The breakdown by year of the 1,195 formal investigations is as follows:

2007: 29

2008: 294

2009: 544

2010 (to date): 328

Of this 1,195 total since October 2007, 998 formal investigations have so far been concluded and action taken.

Actions taken by the OPG at the conclusion of a formal investigation have included: applying to the Court of Protection for the removal of either the deputy or the attorney, severance of an EPA or an LPA, increasing the supervision level of the case, serving the attorney with a censure letter whereby the attorney is told to improve in specific areas or face further action. Some cases have resulted in a referral to the police.

Where cases are signposted to a third party, this is because the cases fall outside the jurisdiction of the OPG, which only covers registered enduring or lasting powers of attorney or deputies appointed by the Court of Protection.

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of the operations of the Office of the Public Guardian was in each of the last three years; and what the cost of producing the OPG in Touch newsletter was in each of those years. [11532]

Mr Djanogly: The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) was created on 1 October 2007 to coincide with the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. It replaced the Public Guardianship Office (PGO) and is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. The operating costs for the final six months of the PGO from April 2007 to September 2007 and those for the OPG from its creation in October 2007 to date are as follows:

	Operating costs (£)
PGO	
April 2007 to September 2007	9,411,000
OPG	
October 2007 to March 2008	7,184,000
April 2008 to March 2009	16,935,000
April 2009 to March 2010[1]	23,286,000

[1] Figures for 2009-10 are subject to final approval.

'OPG in Touch' is the newsletter produced by the OPG to provide information to deputies—persons appointed by the Court of Protection to make decisions on behalf of someone lacking capacity to make those decisions themselves. Generally, up to three editions are produced each year. The predecessor, produced by the PGO was known as 'Reaching Out'.

The costs of producing the newsletter are as follows:

	£
April 2007 to March 2008	[1]32,924
April 2008 to March 2009	36,252
April 2009 to March 2010	27,961

[1] Includes two editions of 'Reaching Out'

Out-of-Court Disposals

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of those offences brought to justice were *(a)* administered as out-of-court disposals and *(b)* pursuant to a criminal conviction in court in each year since 2003. [11447]

Mr Blunt: The number and proportion of offences brought to justice for England and Wales 2003 to 2008 (latest available calendar year) are given in the table as follows.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of offences brought to justice (OBTJs), by outcome and the proportion they are of the total, England and Wales 2003 to 2008[1,2]

	Offences brought to justice (OBTJ)					
	Offences taken into consideration[3]	*Penalty notices for disorder[4]*	*Formal warnings for cannabis possession[5]*	*Cautions[6]*	*Convictions*	*Total OBTJs[7]*
Number (thousand)						
2003	95	3	n/a	238	723	1,060
2004	104	30	19	264	707	1,125
2005	114	99	54	312	698	1,277
2006	123	142	79	370	694	1,407
2007	108	144	99	383	722	1,457
2008	105	117	106	344	731	1,403
Percentage of total OBTJs (%)						
2003	9	0	n/a	22	68	100
2004	9	3	2	23	63	100
2005	9	8	4	24	55	100
2006	9	10	6	26	49	100
2007	7	10	7	26	50	100
2008	7	8	8	24	52	100

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Excludes British Transport Police.

[2] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[3] Offences taken into consideration by the court and previously recorded by the police; figures for April 2004 onwards include offences not previously recorded.

[4] Piloted in 2002 and introduced nationally in 2004.

[5] Introduced in April 2004

[6] Includes reprimands and final warnings for juveniles.

[7] Total may not equal the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

Note:

The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) in April 2002 resulted in significant increases in the number of crimes recorded.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Pleural Plaques: Compensation

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people with pleural plaques eligible for compensation under the extra-statutory scheme announced on 22 February 2010. [11362]

Mr Djanogly: We expect around 6,500 people to consider applying under the extra-statutory payment scheme.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those with pleural plaques and eligible for the extra-statutory compensation scheme announced on 22 February 2010 have received compensation payments; and by what date he expects all those eligible under the scheme to have received compensation. [11363]

Mr Djanogly: The extra-statutory scheme has not begun accepting claims, and so no payments have as yet been made. We hope that the scheme will be in a position to start accepting claims shortly. The scheme will remain open for applications for the period of one year from the date on which it comes into operation. Payments will be made on a timely basis on receipt of applications, and any payments outstanding at the end of the one year period for applications will be made as soon as possible after that date.

Prison Officers

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of prison officer Grade 2; and if he will make a statement. [11216]

Mr Blunt: All new prison officer recruits join the service at prison officer Grade 2; this system has been in place since October 2009.

This arrangement is working well and NOMS do not have any plans to change it.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign nationals were detained at HMP Peterborough in each month in the last 12 months to April 2010; what proportion of the total prisoner population in each month this represented; and if he will make a statement; [11805]

(2) what the nationality was of each foreign national prisoner held at HMP Peterborough on 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [11809]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 as follows shows numbers of foreign national prisoners detained in HMP Peterborough and these as proportions of the total population in HMP Peterborough, split by gender, for the last 12 months up to and including March 2010.

As at 31 March 2010, table 2 shows the nationality of each foreign national prisoner detained in HMP Peterborough. Figures of less than five have been suppressed to avoid possibility of disclosure, such figures are indicated by an asterisk.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1

	Male Foreign Nationals in HMP Peterborough	*Male Foreign Nationals as a proportion of total male population in HMP Peterborough (Percentage)*	*Female Foreign Nationals in HMP Peterborough*	*Female Foreign Nationals as a proportion of total female population in HMP Peterborough (Percentage)*
April 2009	117	19	47	14
May 2009	118	19	62	17
June 2009	114	19	61	18
July 2009	123	20	60	16
August 2009	130	21	53	17
September 2009	126	20	50	16
October 2009	130	21	61	19
November 2009	123	21	66	18
December 2009	113	19	61	18
January 2010	132	21	61	20
February 2010	120	19	63	19
March 2010	122	20	69	19

Table 2

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*
Algeria	*	*
Angola	*	*
Botswana	*	*
Cameroon	*	*
Congo	*	*
Gambia	*	*
Ghana	*	*
Kenya	*	*
Liberia	*	*
Morocco	*	*
Nigeria	5	8
Senegal	*	*
Sierra Leone	*	*
Somalia	5	*
South Africa	*	*
Tunisia	*	*
Uganda	*	*
Zimbabwe	*	5
Afghanistan	*	*

Table 2

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*
Bangladesh	*	*
China	*	*
India	*	*
Pakistan	*	*
Sri Lanka	6	*
Vietnam	7	11
Guyana	*	*
Albania	*	*
Belgium	*	*
Bulgaria	*	*
Czech Republic	*	*
Estonia	*	*
France	*	*
Germany	*	*
Gibraltar	*	*
Hungary	*	*
Irish Republic	*	*
Italy	*	*
Latvia	7	*
Lithuania	11	*
Moldova	*	*
Netherlands	*	*
Poland	11	*
Portugal	9	*
Romania	6	6
Russian Federation	*	*
Serbia and Montenegro	*	*
Slovakia	8	*
Iran	*	*
Iraq	*	*
United States	*	*
Grenada	*	*
Jamaica	*	5
St Lucia	*	*

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many non-UK nationals from *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* non-EU member states are detained in prison (i) on remand and (ii) serving sentences. [11815]

Mr Blunt: As at 31 March 2010, there were 879 non-UK nationals from EU member states in prison on remand and a further 2,413 serving sentences. There were 1,542 non-EU nationals in prison on remand and a further 5,420 serving sentences.

The number of foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality is published quarterly in the population in custody bulletin, found under the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to ensure prompt consideration of applications for the transfer of UK citizens serving prison sentences in *(a)* Venezuela and *(b)* other states with a prisoner transfer agreement with the UK. [11882]

Mr Blunt: The United Kingdom has been able to repatriate prisoners since 1985 and procedures are in place to ensure that any application received is considered promptly and in accordance with the requirements of the relevant international arrangement.

The United Kingdom and Venezuela are signatories to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The Ministry of Justice is working in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to identify British nationals who wish to be transferred from Venezuela to England and Wales to continue serving their prison sentence here. From 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2009 the Ministry of Justice repatriated 10 British nationals from Venezuelan prisons. During the same period 177 British nationals were transferred from other countries with which the United Kingdom has prisoner transfer arrangements.

The repatriation of prisoners to Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the respective devolved administration.

Prosecutions: Weapons

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many 13 to 19-year-olds were prosecuted for possession of a gun in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available; [10733]

(2) how many 13 to 19-year-olds were prosecuted for possession of knives in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available. [10734]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons aged 13 to 19 proceeded against at magistrates courts in Greater London and England for firearms possession offences and having an article with a blade or point in a public place, from 2005-08 (latest available) is given in tables 1 and 2 respectively.

Information held centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by parliamentary constituency or local authority area, therefore Metropolitan and City of London police force area data have been provided in lieu.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Table 1: Number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts in Greater London[1] and England for firearm possession offences[2], from 2005-08[2,3]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	919	758	832	635

Table 1: Number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts in Greater London[1] and England for firearm possession offences[2], from 2005-08[2, 3]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Of which:				
Greater London	199	184	182	140

[1] Includes the City of London and Metropolitan police force areas.
[2] Includes offences under sections of the Firearms Act 1968 as amended by Criminal Justice Act 1972, Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994, Criminal Justice Act 2003, Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.
[3] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts in Greater London[1] and England for offences of having an article with a blade or point[2], from 2005-08[2, 3]

Area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	1,990	2,193	2,149	2,148
Of which:				
Greater London	604	661	558	712

[1] Includes the City of London and Metropolitan police force areas.
[2] Includes offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 section 139; and section 139A(1) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, section 4(1).
[3] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Rape: Rights of Accused

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the oral answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 161, on defendant anonymity (rape cases) (1) on what non-statutory basis he proposes that anonymity for defendants in rape cases could be provided; [11557]

(2) what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to grant anonymity to defendants in rape cases. [11558]

Mr Blunt: As I made clear at the all-day debate on this subject on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 533-602, the Government will consider over the summer recess how best to go about strengthening anonymity up to the point of charge and will bring proposals to Parliament in the autumn. The Government are only considering non-legislative options on this matter and, as I said in the House on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 160-61, we are trying to find the best non-statutory solution.

The Government have also decided to postpone publication of an assessment of the existing research and statistics until September. This will allow us to give as full a consideration as possible to the relevant evidence and to address the many questions that have been raised, in particular those raised in the debate on 8 July. The revised time scale also allows appropriate quality checks to be undertaken.

Secure Training Centres

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* persons and *(b)* organisations his Department consulted prior to (i) the issue of contracts to the private providers to run the secure training centres at (A) Oakhill, (B) Hassockfield, (C) Rainsbrook and (D) Medway and (ii) the reissue of the contract for Oakhill. [10345]

Mr Blunt: Prior to the establishment of the first secure training centre (STC) in 1998, the Home Office (which at the time had responsibility for commissioning places for young people in custody) carried out a full public consultation on the new type of custodial establishment for under-18s.

Following this, the Home Office carried out a tendering exercise for the building, financing, construction and operation of the new centres, in accordance with European Union contract rules and regulations.

In May 2008 G4S, the contractor at Oakhill Secure Training Centre, acquired Rebound Children's Services, the operator of two other STCs (Rainsbrook and Medway). G4S decided that Rebound should also be given responsibility for Oakhill. However, this process did not involve reissuing the contract.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to place secure training centres under the control of public sector providers. [10346]

Mr Blunt: Secure training centres are privately run custodial establishments for young people under 18. They are one of three forms of custody for under-18s: the other two are young offender institutions, which are mostly run by the Prison Service, and secure children's homes, which are run by local authorities (under the supervision of the Department for Education).

Each type of establishment operates a different type of regime, which is designed to cater for the needs of the young people that are placed there. The diversity of the under-18 estate helps it better to meet the varying needs of young people in custody.

Secure places for under-18s in custody are commissioned by the Youth Justice Board, which keeps the accommodation it commissions under continuing review, to ensure it best meets the needs of young people while ensuring value for money.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review each control and restraint incident which took place in secure training centres during the 12 months to March 2009; and if he will publish details of each incident including the *(a)* number of staff involved, *(b)* age, ethnic origin, sex and any disabilities of the child in custody and *(c)* age, ethnic origin and sex of each member of staff involved. [10369]

Mr Blunt: Secure training centres are regularly inspected by Ofsted including in the use of restraint. In addition, the Youth Justice Board monitors who work in the establishments are informed whenever restraint is used within 24 hours of the occurrence.

Data regarding the use of restraint in secure training centres are collected by the Youth Justice Board from monthly returns by each establishment. The following tables show the number of restrictive physical interventions (RPI) recorded in each secure training centre by age, ethnic origin and sex of the young person during the 12 months to March 2009.

Data on restrictive physical interventions by disability or by number, age, ethnic origin or sex of members of staff involved in restraint incidents are not collected centrally.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Restrictive physical interventions by age, April 2008 to March 2009

	11	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*Total*
STC total	0	0	60	625	602	453	52	1,792
Hassockfield	0	0	3	165	209	157	9	543
Medway	0	0	23	154	106	106	27	416
Oakhill	0	0	29	198	120	107	5	459
Rainsbrook	0	0	5	108	167	83	11	374

Restrictive physical interventions by ethnic origin, April 2008 to March 2009

	Asian	*Black*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*White*	*Total*
STC total	18	256	209	1	1,308	1,792
Hassockfield	3	6	68	0	466	543
Medway	1	96	31	1	287	416
Oakhill	9	107	86	0	257	459
Rainsbrook	5	47	24	0	298	374

Restrictive physical interventions by sex, April 2008 to March 2009

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
STC total	1,132	660	1,792
Hassockfield	384	159	543
Medway	286	130	416
Oakhill	329	130	459
Rainsbrook	133	241	374

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit the use of restraint techniques that involve deliberately inflicting physical pain in secure training centres. [10370]

Mr Blunt: It is essential that approved and effective techniques are available to staff in custodial establishments who find themselves dealing with young people whose behaviour puts the young people themselves, or others, at risk. The independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings, published in December 2008, concluded that, in exceptional circumstances, pain-compliant techniques were necessary in the secure estate for children and young people. Pain-compliant techniques are only to be used as the last resort, where all other methods of control have failed or would not succeed and where there is serious threat to the safety of young people or staff.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will establish a public inquiry chaired by a member of the judiciary to investigate the compatibility of practices in secure training centres with article 3 of the European convention on human rights. [10374]

Mr Blunt: Secure training centres are subject to regular inspection by Ofsted. Each STC has a monitor whose role is to review and report to the Secretary of State on the running of the centre. Monitors have a number of statutory functions including investigating allegations made against custody officers and hearing appeals from trainees.

The independent "Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings", which examined behaviour management and restraint practices in all three sectors of the under-18 secure estate, reported in 2008. The Government have no plans to establish a further inquiry into practices in secure training centres.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which companies have been contracted to transfer children under the age of 18 years to and from secure training centres; and how many times and for what purpose staff of each of these companies used each of the techniques involving force specified in the Physical Control in Care manual on a child under the age of 18 years in each month of each of the last five years. [11172]

Mr Blunt: Since 1 April 2005, the Youth Justice Board has contracted with Reliance Custodial Services for the provision of a service to transport sentenced young people to and from secure training centres. The contract makes provision for Reliance to sub-contract and there are currently four companies with whom they maintain such an arrangement: Wrixon Care Services; Cares UK; Excel Custodial & Escort Services; and Rebound Escort Solutions.

According to data provided to the Youth Justice Board by Reliance Custodial Services, between July 2005 and June 2010 a total of 12 Physical Control in Care restraints were applied for the purpose of preventing a young person from: injuring him- or herself or others; damaging property; or inciting another trainee to cause injury or damage to property. Details of which particular hold or holds were used in each instance are not collected centrally.

Restraint holds or, on occasion, handcuffs, are also used, following individual risk assessments, when escorting young people through non-secure areas; and handcuffs are used in some court areas where it is mandatory to do so. Previous data are not available for this category of restraint, but earlier this year contractors began putting in place systems to collect the data, which the Youth Justice Board expect to be available from July onwards.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit the use of handcuffs on children in secure training centres and young offender institutions. [10371]

Mr Blunt: It is essential that approved and effective techniques are available to staff in custodial establishments who find themselves dealing with young people whose behaviour puts the young people themselves, or others, at risk. Handcuffs are permitted for use in secure training centres in exceptional circumstances, where their use would be the safest option. Any use of handcuffs must be authorised by the director of the centre.

In young offender institutions, handcuffs are applied only when absolutely necessary in specified circumstances, either within the establishment to control a violent or aggressive young person or to prevent the escape of a young person being escorted outside the establishment.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will undertake a review of child protection measures in secure training centres with the aim of bringing forward legislative proposals to improve the safeguarding of children in custody. [10372]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board, with the assistance of the National Children's Bureau, conducted a comprehensive review of safeguarding in the under-18 secure estate, which was published in December 2008. The review looked at child protection measures in secure training centres and noted a number of areas of effective practice and areas for improvement. Following the review, the Youth Justice Board developed a safeguarding strategy for the next three years and is pressing ahead with the implementation of that strategy.

The revised statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children", published in March 2010, places a responsibility on local safeguarding children boards to have in place effective working practices between local authorities and secure establishments. This will include consideration of agreed referral processes and information-sharing arrangements for child protection issues. Secure training centres, in partnership with their local authorities, undertake regular audits of their safeguarding policies in line with section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to improve the provision of information to children who have been detained in a secure training centre and their families on their rights to seek justice and compensation in cases of abuse by staff of a secure training centre. [10373]

Mr Blunt: All young people in secure training centres (STCs) have access to support and advice, including from independent sources such as advocates and help-lines. As part of the induction process, all young people in STCs are provided with information about the complaints process and how to contact advocates, which is displayed in communal areas. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is currently undertaking a review of complaints, with a view to improving the complaints processes across the under-18 secure estate.

The YJB is working in partnership with the Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) to develop an independent publication for children and young people. The publication will explain young people's rights while in custody and in the community, the concepts of human rights and equality and how and where to get help if they consider that their rights may have been breached.

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information is provided by secure training centres to *(a)* children held in secure training centres, *(b)* the parents or carers of children admitted to secure training centres, *(c)* local authorities which are the corporate parents of children and *(d)* independent advocacy services on approved restraint measures. [10825]

Mr Blunt: Behaviour management and restraint issues are discussed with all children and young people as part of the secure training centre's (STC) admission procedure. The Youth Justice Board is working in partnership with STCs to pilot additional ways of informing young people on the use of restraint practices.

Parents and carers who attend a young person's initial planning and review meetings have an opportunity to discuss all aspects of the young person's training plan, including aspects of behaviour management. Parents and carers are informed of any incident involving restraint at the earliest opportunity.

Following every incident of restraint, the secure training centre will inform a young person's youth offending team (YOT) case worker. Where a local authority is the corporate parent of a young person, the YOT will either liaise with the social worker assigned to the young person regarding the incident or instruct the establishment to contact the social worker directly.

Each secure training centre holds a monthly incident review meeting attended by the independent advocate team leader to review information about restraint incidents including their location, the staff involved and the holds used. Independent advocates are also invited to demonstrations of the restraint techniques run by the centres.

Secure Training Centres: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff have been *(a)* disciplined, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed following a restraint incident in a secure training centre in each of the last five years. [10827]

Mr Blunt: Restraint is only ever to be used by staff as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate. Each secure training centre holds a monthly incident review meeting attended by the independent advocate team leader to review information about restraint incidents including their location, the staff involved and the holds used. The Youth Justice Board monitors who work in the establishments are informed whenever restraint is used within 24 hours of the occurrence.

The available data, which are set out in the following table, have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Staff disciplined, suspended and dismissed following a restraint incident at a secure training centre, 2006 to 2010[1]

	Disciplined	*Suspended*	*Dismissed*
2006[2]	3	0	0
2007[2]	2	4	0
2008	6	6	0
2009	3	2	1
2010	0	1	0

[1] Data supplied by the Youth Justice Board.
[2] Does not include data relating to Oakhill, as this is not available for this year.

Secure Training Centres: Equipment

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether wrist locks are authorised for use in secure training centres. [10828]

Mr Blunt: Wrist locks are not currently authorised for use in secure training centres.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the use of control and restraint techniques in secure training centres with the aim of ensuring that all techniques used by staff in situations where there are immediate and serious threats to life are *(a)* consistent with standards in comparable settings involving children and vulnerable adults and *(b)* compliant with human rights legislation. [10474]

Mr Blunt: The independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings published in December 2008 made a series of recommendations to improve the use of restraint and behaviour management by staff across the under-18 secure estate, including in situations where there are immediate and serious threats to life. In the course of drawing up their recommendations, the joint chairs of the review examined in detail the use of restraint in other settings involving children and vulnerable adults. A major programme of work is in progress to implement the review's recommendations.

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the physical control in care restraint manual used in secure training centres, whether there are any equivalent documents governing restraint and the use of force in young offender institutions. [10829]

Mr Blunt: Restraint is only ever to be used by staff as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate. Prison Service Order 1600 regulates the policy on use of force in young offender institutions. The Control and Restraint training manual sets out the training syllabus and briefing material necessary for teaching the approved techniques to staff.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to inform the chairs of local safeguarding children boards of the restraint and breakaway techniques authorised for use in secure training centres. [10907]

Mr Blunt: The revised statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children", published in March 2010, places a duty on local safeguarding children boards to

> "ensure appropriate links with any secure setting in its area and be able to scrutinise restraint techniques, the policies and protocols which surround the use of restraint, and incidences of injuries".

Every secure training centre director is a member of the local safeguarding children board and will be able to provide any information that is required by the LSCB to fulfil its statutory function.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals for a ban on the use in secure training centres and young offender institutions of restraint techniques which may result in physical pain. [11222]

Mr Blunt: It is essential that approved and effective restraint techniques are available to staff in custodial establishments, to enable them to deal with young people whose behaviour puts at risk the safety of the young person him- or herself, other young people, or members of staff. Restraint is only used as a last resort, when all other methods of control have failed or would not succeed.

Any form of restraint has the potential to cause pain if the young person resists. In deciding whether a technique should be approved for use, the key issue is safety. The Restraint Accreditation Board, chaired by Professor Susan Bailey, is about to begin a programme of work to assess the safety and appropriateness of all techniques used in the under-18 secure estate.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times a child has been held face down to the floor during restraint in each secure training centre in each of the last five years. [11465]

Mr Blunt: Each secure training centre records the types of physical control in care holds applied during each incident of restraint, and analyses information on a monthly basis. However, the centres' information management records do not specifically capture the number of instances where holds may have been applied when the young person was held in a prone position.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has specified that any groups of children other than pregnant children must not be held face down on the floor in secure training centres. [11466]

Mr Blunt: There are no techniques authorised for use in secure training centres that involve deliberately taking young people to the floor. If, in the course of a restraint, a young person deliberately takes himself or herself to the ground, then, in general, either the young person will continue to be restrained and will be brought to a standing position at the earliest opportunity, or he or she will be released. A young person must not be held on the floor for more than three minutes, after which he or she must be released. The Physical Control in Care manual makes it clear that girls who are pregnant must not be held face down on the floor. The manual also draws attention to the heightened risks of restraining other groups of young people, including those suffering from asthma, obesity, or recent head injury or who are in a psychotic state or a state of excited delirium.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times a member of staff has used the technique of the tantrum hold in each secure training centre in each of the last five years; and for what purpose in each case. [11467]

Mr Blunt: The tantrum hold is an approved physical control in care technique, for use in extreme circumstances to prevent a young person from self-harm.

The requested information is set out in the following table. The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

Use of the tantrum hold in each secure training centre, 2006-10[1]

	Medway	*Rainsbrook*	*Oakhill*	*Hassockfield*
2006	8	4	47	0
2007	9	9	6	0
2008	6	14	0	0
2009	2	5	0	0
2010 (to date)	0	0	0	0
Total	25	32	53	0

[1] Data provided by the Youth Justice Board.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many times a member of staff has used the technique of driving their straightened fingers into a child's face in each secure training centre in each of the last five years; and for what purpose in each case; [11468]

(2) how many times a member of staff has used the technique of raking their shoe down a child's shin, driving down onto the child's instep, in each secure training centre in each of the last five years; and for what purpose in each case. [11470]

Mr Blunt: These techniques, called 'breakaway techniques', can only be used lawfully by staff in self-defence, in extreme circumstances when their own safety is genuinely at risk. Data provided by the Youth Justice Board indicates that no members of staff in secure training centres have used any of these techniques in the past five years.

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether children with *(a)* learning and *(b)* other disabilities were involved in any restraint incident in each secure training centre in the last 12 months. [11760]

Mr Blunt: Data on young people in secure training centres with learning or other disabilities who are involved in a restraint incident are not collected centrally.

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children of each *(a)* sex, *(b)* age group and *(c)* ethnic origin were involved in each restraint incident in each secure training centre in the last 12 months. [11299]

Mr Blunt: Secure training centres are regularly inspected by Ofsted including in the use of restraint. In addition, the Youth Justice Board monitors who work in the establishments are informed whenever restraint is used within 24 hours of the occurrence.

Data regarding the use of restraint in secure training centres are collected by the Youth Justice Board from monthly returns by each establishment. The tables show the number of restrictive physical interventions (RPI) recorded in each secure training centre by age, ethnic origin and sex of the young person during the 12 months to March 2009. This is the most recent period for which data are available.

Data on restrictive physical interventions by disability or by number, age, ethnic origin or sex of members of staff involved in restraint incidents are not collected centrally.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Restrictive physical interventions by age, April 2008 to March 2009

	11	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*Total*
STC total	0	0	60	625	602	453	52	1,792
Hassockfield	0	0	3	165	209	157	9	543
Medway	0	0	23	154	106	106	27	416
Oakhill	0	0	29	198	120	107	5	459
Rainsbrook	0	0	5	108	167	83	11	374

Restrictive physical interventions by ethnic origin, April 2008 to March 2009

	Asian	*Black*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*White*	*Total*
STC total	18	256	209	1	1,308	1,792
Hassockfield	3	6	68	0	466	543
Medway	1	96	31	1	287	416
Oakhill	9	107	86	0	257	459
Rainsbrook	5	47	24	0	298	374

Restrictive physical interventions by sex, April 2008 to March 2009

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
STC total	1,132	660	1,792
Hassockfield	384	159	543
Medway	286	130	416
Oakhill	329	130	459
Rainsbrook	133	241	374

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times a member of staff has used the technique of driving their inverted knuckles under a child's rib cage in each secure training centre in each of the last five years; and for what purpose in each case. [11469]

Mr Blunt: The technique referred to in the question, involving pressure to the ribs, is one of two 'distraction techniques'. Distraction techniques are for use where a trainee is being extremely violent and it is not possible to apply one of the ordinary restraint holds without first causing the trainee to disengage. They are for use only in exceptional circumstances.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has collected specific data on use of distraction techniques since April 2006. The available data, supplied by the YJB, are set out in the following table. They have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. To discover the purpose for which the technique was used on each occasion would involve analysis of individual incident reports, which could not be done without incurring disproportionate cost.

Use of rib distraction technique in secure training centres, April 2006 to March 2009

	April 2006 to March 2007	*April 2007 to March 2008*	*April 2008 to March 2009*	*Total*
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0
Medway	2	3	0	5
Oakhill	0	2	0	2
Rainsbrook	0	0	0	0
Total	2	5	0	7

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department and its predecessors for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11679]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice does not make any direct payments to trade unions.

Facilities agreements between the Ministry of Justice and the trade union sides follow the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the ACAS code of practice 'Time off for trade union duties and activities' available at:

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391

The number of days that staff spent on trade union related duties and activities within the 2008-09 financial year was a maximum of 41,558. The estimated total salary cost of such activity was £6.3 million. This did not include PCS local representatives in MOJ (excluding NOMS). This figure is not known.

The amount spent on trade union activity and on other facilities provided for use by trade unions since 1997 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11680]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Facilities agreements between the Ministry of Justice and the trade union sides follow the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the ACAS code of practice 'Time off for trade union duties and activities', available at:

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391

The number of paid manpower hours civil servants in the Department and its predecessors spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997 could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11681]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Facilities agreements between the Ministry of Justice and the trade union sides follow the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the ACAS code of practice 'Time off for trade union duties and activities', available at:

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391

The number of civil servants in the Department and its predecessors who spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997 could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Traffic Enforcement Centre

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place for the governance of the Traffic Enforcement Centre. [11253]

Mr Djanogly: The County Court Bulk Centre manager is responsible to maintain a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of HMCS/CCBC policies, aims and objectives, while safeguarding the public funds and assets, and the Traffic Enforcement Centre is part of this responsibility.

The centre manager is required to provide regular assurance to the accounting officer through his line management chain, that the system of internal control and risk management is both in place and operating effectively within the manager's responsibility. There are robust procedures that require the centre manager to provide evidence of and evaluate the controls in place.

The centre manager is ultimately responsible to the regional director with responsibility for the civil business centres.

Witnesses

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many intermediaries are registered by his Department. [10713]

Mr Djanogly: On 26 July there were 119 registered intermediaries on the Intermediary Register, the national database for the witness intermediary scheme.

Witnesses: Hearing Impairment

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many referrals have been made to his Department's intermediaries in each year since 2006; and what proportion of such referrals have been made to registered deaf intermediaries. [10934]

Mr Djanogly: Annual data are not available before August 2009 when the operation and management of the witness intermediary scheme's matching service was transferred to the National Policing Improvement Agency. Since then there have been 1,214 requests (referrals) for a registered intermediary, of which 19 specifically requested a deaf registered intermediary. A further 17 requests stated that the individual for whom the request was made could be assisted through the provision of a non-deaf registered intermediary with, as appropriate, Makaton or British sign language skills.

Since the witness intermediary scheme was introduced as a pilot project in 2004, there have been over 4,000 requests made for a registered intermediary.

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many deaf intermediaries are registered with his Department. [10935]

Mr Djanogly: There are currently five deaf registered intermediaries on the Intermediary Register, the national database for the witness intermediary scheme.

TREASURY

Accelerated Development Zones

Pat Glass: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the accelerated development zones pilot programme. [11779]

Danny Alexander: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Stockton South (James Wharton) on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 515W.

Bank Services: Fees and Charges

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to bring forward proposals to achieve the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to introduce measures to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges; and if he will make a statement. [11846]

Mr Hoban: The Government stated in the coalition agreement that

> "we will introduce stronger consumer protections, including measures to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges".

We are considering how best to implement this commitment and will bring forward proposals in due course.

More widely, the Government will legislate to establish a new Consumer Protection and Markets Authority so that the interests of consumers of financial services are placed at the heart of the regulatory system and given the priority they deserve. And the Independent Commission on Banking will look at the structure of banking in the UK, the state of competition in the industry and how customers and taxpayers can be sure of the best deal.

Building Societies

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects on building societies of the implementation of the proposal to equalise the terms of depositor protection of members in respect of merging building societies at the time of merger. [11228]

Mr Hoban: Since December 2008 there has been an extension of financial services compensation scheme coverage where two building societies merge, ensuring that where members have deposits in each society, those deposits are protected, in effect up to £100,000 (£50,000 limit per person, per merging society). This gives them the opportunity to move their money elsewhere if they wish and protects the newly merged society from a sudden withdrawal of deposits. The FSA recently announced the extension of this rule to cover mergers taking effect before 30 December 2010.

Building Societies: Regulation

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to strengthen the regulatory framework for building societies. [10753]

Mr Hoban: The building society sector has an important role to play within UK financial services and is a key player within the mutual sector. The Government are committed to promoting the financial mutual sector to foster diversity and competition within the financial services industry, and is currently considering how best to achieve this.

Capital Gains Tax

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the residential letting sector of increasing the rate of capital gains tax. [6324]

Mr Gauke: The likely effect on the residential letting sector of increasing the rate of capital gains tax was estimated to be small.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further plans he has for implementing his policy of taxing non-business capital gains at rates similar or close to those applied to income. [8551]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor announced in the Budget on 22 June that capital gains tax would rise to 28% for those with total income and taxable gains above the higher rate income tax threshold. The Government are not planning to revisit this decision in this Parliament.

Cheques

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his oral answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 518, on banking, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that alternatives to the cheque guarantee card are in place; whether he expects such alternatives to be in place by 30 June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [8790]

Mr Hoban: Alternatives to the cheque guarantee card, such as cash and debit and credit cards, are already in place. Consumers will still be able to write cheques and businesses can continue to accept them even after the guarantee scheme's withdrawal.

Child Benefit

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 912W, on child benefit, for what reasons he provided a reference to a web page rather than the figures requested; and what assessment he has made of the compliance of the answer with Cabinet Office guidance on the answering of parliamentary questions for written answer. [11574]

Mr Gauke: It has been the practice of successive Administrations to refer Members to publications and other source documents from which information they are seeking can be extracted.

Consumer Price Index

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent research his Department has undertaken on the use of the Consumer Price Index to measure the rate of inflation. [11487]

Justine Greening: The scope and definition of the consumer price index (CPI) is for the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). The CPI is consistent with the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) that is specified in a series of European regulations. The ONS undertake research to maintain and improve consumer price indices.

The Chancellor confirmed at Budget that the independent Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England will continue to target 2% inflation, as measured by the 12-month increase in the CPI.

Corporation Tax

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effects of the proposed reduction in the small profits rate of corporation tax on *(a)* small businesses and *(b)* manufacturers. [10724]

Mr Gauke: The estimated impact on the Exchequer of the reduction in the small profits rate of corporation tax is set out in 'Budget 2010 Policy Costings', which was published alongside the Budget and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Around 850,000 companies across all sectors will benefit from the reduction in the small profits rate of corporation tax to 20% from April 2011. This includes at least 50,000 companies in the manufacturing sector.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7347]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury—a full PFI refurbishment of the Treasury's building was completed in 2002. The cost of any refurbishments since that date have been included in the annual unitary payment made to the PFI provider and is not separately recorded. As a result of the introduction of a new accounting system in 2002-03, provision of information prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Debt Management Office—information prior to 2002-03 is not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system. The available information is shown in the following table:

	£000
2002-03	53
2003-04	2
2004-05	3
2005-06	0
2006-07	35
2007-08	3
2008-09	70
2009-10	11

The Asset Protection Agency and the Royal Mint Advisory Committee have no record of any spending on office refurbishment.

Departmental Catering

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4856]

Justine Greening: The Treasury's accounting system does not separately identify catering spending and the information could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Public spending data from the COINS database for the years 2005-06 to 2009-10 inclusive was published on 4 June.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7598]

Justine Greening: The available information on spending by HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office (DMO) on website design since 2002-03, when a new accounting system was introduced, is shown in the following table.

		£000
	HMT	*DMO*
2003-04	0	85
2004-05	22	220
2005-06	0	210
2006-07	0	25
2007-08	0	0
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	8	0

Neither the Asset Protection Agency nor the Royal Mint Advisory Committee have incurred any spending on website design.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to ensure that his Department's Spending Challenge website complies with minimum standards of accessibility. [10415]

Justine Greening: The Spending Challenge website was built and implemented as a joint exercise between No 10, Cabinet Office, Directgov, HM Treasury and a private sector partner called Delib. HM Treasury facilitated access to the Spending Challenge website via its own departmental site.

The Spending Challenge website was built to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. It conforms to level AA, meaning the website is accessible to most users. This was validated using both manual tests and automated tools. It also went though a series of tests with users, including people with disabilities.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to ensure that his Department's Your Freedom website complies with minimum standards of accessibility. [10416]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The Your Freedom application went though a series of tests with users including people with disabilities to make sure it met the minimum AA web accessibility standards. In addition, the supplier tested those elements that were specific to 'Your Freedom' using both manual tests and automated tools. Because the planned brand colours were found not to meet accessibility standards after initial testing they were replaced with a colour palate that did.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7561]

Justine Greening: The following table sets out the available information on spending on legal advice for HM Treasury, the Debt Management Office (DMO) and the Asset Protection Agency (APA).

	HMT	*DMO*	*£000* *APA*
2002-03	n/a	70	n/a
2003-04	n/a	81	n/a
2004-05	2,701	64	n/a
2005-06	3,306	78	n/a
2006-07	2,412	93	n/a
2007-08	2,650	57	n/a
2008-09	10,445	43	n/a
2009-10	17,742	136	89

Legal costs for HM Treasury were not separately identified within the accounting system prior to 2004-05 and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Information for DMO prior to 2002-03 is not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system at that time. Data on legal spending are not available by purpose but the figures quoted will be mostly advisory costs.

Data for the newly formed APA are only available from 2009-10.

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee did not incur any legal costs for the period in question.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010; [8330]

(2) how many miles each Minister in his Department travelled in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8179]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 13 July, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Public Consultation

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to ensure that people without internet access can participate in his Department's Spending Challenge. [10418]

Danny Alexander: Those without internet access, or those who do not wish to participate in the Spending Challenge online, can write to the Treasury directly, or through their MP in the normal way. Letters that pertain to the Spending Challenge are then being fed into the wider process set up to capture the ideas that the Spending Challenge is generating and feed them through to the relevant Spending Departments.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7365]

Justine Greening: The information requested is as follows:

HM Treasury

A full PFI refurbishment of the Treasury's building was completed in 2002. The cost of any physical security for the building since that date has been included in the annual unitary payment made to the PFI provider and is not separately recorded.

Debt Management Office and Asset Protection Agency

Physical security of the leased office accommodation is charged as part of the quarterly service charge and is not separately identifiable without incurring disproportionate costs.

Identifiable security costs are shown in the following table.

Financial year	*HM Treasury*	*£000* *Debt Management Office*
2003-04	16	6
2004-05	35	5
2005-06	289	2
2006-07	38	2
2007-08	63	2
2008-09	78	3
2009-10	102	2

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee does not incur any security costs.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee training in each year since 1997. [7636]

Justine Greening: The available information is shown in the following table.

			£000
	HMT	*DMO*	*APA*
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03	1,848	94	n/a
2003-04	1,708	133	n/a
2004-05	1,574	139	n/a
2005-06	1,803	104	n/a
2006-07	1,621	76	n/a
2007-08	1,888	111	n/a
2008-09	2,139	143	n/a
2009-10	2,252	124	1

For HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office (DMO), information on spending prior to 2002-03 is not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system in that year.

Data for the newly formed Asset Protection Agency (APA) are only available for 2009-10.

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee has not incurred any spending in the period in question.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requests he has received from the Equitable Members Action Group for information on Head A calculations; what information he has provided in response; and if he will make a statement. [11894]

Mr Hoban: In response to requests for greater transparency, on 22 July 2010, I published alongside Sir John Chadwick's final advice on the losses suffered by policyholders. Published alongside this was the actuarial advice provided to Sir John during the course of his work and a letter from Towers Watson setting out a range of loss figures that follow from Sir John's report.

Health Foods

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his definition is of foodstuffs with a medicinal value. [11268]

Mr Gauke: Under VAT legislation, food and medicines come under separate zero rates. There is therefore no need to provide a separate definition for foodstuffs with a medicinal value.

Housing Benefit

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the 2010 Budget, what assessment he has made of the likely effects on low-income groups of the proposed changes to housing benefits. [4678]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Department published an equality impact assessment on 'Changes to the Local Housing Allowance arrangements and Housing Benefit size criteria for people with non-resident overnight carers' and a separate document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance' to be introduced in 2011-12 on 23 July 2010.

A copy of these has been placed in the Library.

Income Tax

Mr Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who pay income tax pay it at the (i) basic rate, (ii) higher rate and (iii) additional rate. [11544]

Mr Gauke: The requested information for 2010-11 is provided in the following table.

	Males		*Females*	
Taxpayer	*Number (thousand)*	*Percentage*	*Number (thousand)*	*Percentage*
Starting rate for 10p savings	70	0.5	150	1
Basic rate	14,800	85	12,200	93.5
Higher rate	2,340	13.5	670	5
Additional rate	240	1.5	40	0.5
Total number of taxpayers	17,400		13,100	

These estimates have been produced using HMRC Personal Tax Model, based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2010-11 using the Office for Budget Responsibility's economic assumptions for this June 2010 Budget.

Income Tax: Females

Mr Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people who will no longer pay income tax as a result of the implementation of the measures in the June 2010 Budget are women. [11584]

Mr Gauke: The personal allowance for under 65s will be increased by £1,000 in April 2011, with the gains limited to basic rate taxpayers. We estimate that the 880,000 lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether, of which 59% are females.

This estimate is calculated using the HMRC Personal Tax Model, based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 using June 2010 Budget economic assumptions.

National Insurance Fund

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future level of the national insurance fund; and what recent discussions he has had with the Government Actuary on that matter. [10950]

Mr Gauke: The Government plans for the National Insurance Fund to bear a proper relationship in the longer term to demands in respect of payment of benefits.

Ministers receive advice from the Government Actuary in the ordinary course of business. The report of the Government Actuary required by the Social Security Administration Act 1992 on the effect of changes announced in the Emergency Budget will be laid before Parliament with the associated draft legislation in due course.

Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals against Valuation Office Agency rating assessments by independent petrol filling stations remain outstanding from the 2005 Valuation Office Agency revaluation scheme; and how many such appeals have been lodged since 1 April 2010 in respect of the 2010 revaluation scheme. [8608]

Mr Gauke: The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) primary aim is to ensure that rating assessments are accurate and fair. Where possible, it aims to reach agreement on what constitutes fair and accurate valuation schemes through discussions with the relevant ratepayers or their representatives. Where this is not possible, ratepayers may raise proposals (appeals) against the rating lists.

The number of rating proposals outstanding relating to petrol filling stations (excluding those with supermarkets) is provided in the following table.

Proposals relating to petrol filling stations against the 2005 and 2010 rating lists

	2005 rating lists as at 31 March 2010	*2010 rating lists as at 30 June 2010*
England	1,579	1,966
Wales	93	110
Total	1,672	2,076

The VOA is not required to hold details of the name of the occupier of individual properties and so is not able to say how many of these outstanding proposals relate to petrol filling stations occupied by independent petrol retailers.

Data on proposals made against the 2010 rating lists have not been published, and so the above data have been taken from the VOA's operational database.

Proposals to alter a rating list can be made on several grounds; these include that the complied list valuation is incorrect; that a notice to alter the list is incorrect; for deletion of the entry in the list; or there has been a material change of circumstances that has affected the property. The numbers provided are for all grounds of appeal.

Where the ratepayer and the Valuation Officer cannot agree on the correct rateable value, the appeal will be heard before the independent Valuation Tribunal. If the ratepayer is still dissatisfied with the outcome, then there is a right to make an appeal to the Lands Tribunal.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions his Department received representations on the cost to the public purse of nuclear decommissioning as a proportion of net public sector *(a)* borrowing and *(b)* debt in the last two years; from whom each such representation was received; and if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's response in each case. [1196]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 7 June 2010]:* Treasury Ministers and officials regularly discuss funding for nuclear decommissioning with interested parties. No specific representations have been received to date regarding the effect of the cost of nuclear decommissioning on fiscal aggregates such as public sector net debt or public sector net borrowing.

Office for Tax Simplification

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials from his Department will be working directly for the Office for Tax Simplification. [11314]

Mr Gauke: Michael Jack and John Whiting, who are leading the office for the first year, will be supported by a small secretariat to be appointed over the summer. This will include three officials from HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs in addition to externally funded secondees.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of setting up the Office for Tax Simplification. [11315]

Mr Gauke: The Office of Tax Simplification is being fully established over the summer. The set up costs for the office are estimated to be £30,000 and mainly consist of accommodation, IT and recruitment. They will be met from within existing Treasury and HMRC budgets for 2010-11.

Overseas Trade: Israel

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue the Government collected from the *(a)* importation and *(b)* sale in the UK of goods sourced, packaged or grown on Israeli settlements which the UN has declared illegal in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [10974]

Mr Gauke: The Government are unable to provide the information requested. The Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories do not have a separate country code. Consequently, it is not possible for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to separately identify imports from the Israeli Settlements. However, since 2000, HMRC has issued demands for around £482,000 in customs duty on approximately 1,000 consignments of products imported into the UK from Settlements where preferential tariff rates under the EC-Israel Association Agreement had been incorrectly claimed.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the licensing process for the importation of goods sourced, packaged or grown on Israeli settlements which the UN has declared illegal for the purpose of preventing the licensing of such goods. [10975]

Mr Gauke: The European Commission has responsibility for the licensing system and would, as such, initiate and undertake any review. The Commission last examined the rules for agricultural products in 2008. The Government cannot take unilateral action to review, amend or alter the processes and requirements for issuing import licences for goods imported from the Israeli settlements.

Personal Loans

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the level of household *(a)* borrowing and *(b)* debt as a result of the June 2010 Budget by the end of 2011. [9507]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Chairman of the Office for Budget Responsibility, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Sir Alan Budd, dated 23 July 2010:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) I have been asked to reply to your recent question:

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the change in the level of household (a) borrowing and (b) debt as a result of the June 2010 Budget by the end of 2011. (9507)

We have published forecasts for household consumption and the saving ratio in the June Budget document. The saving ratio remains close to historic averages through 2010 and 2011, meaning that consumption growth is close to that of income over the period.

The specific information that you have requested on household borrowing and debt has not yet been published. In accordance with our publication procedure, (which is available on our website at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/interim_release_process.pdf

We will release the supplementary information that you have requested on 19 August 2010, at 11am. This information will be published on the OBR website, and copies of all published material will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police: Lambeth

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effect implementation of the measures proposed in the June 2010 Budget will have on police numbers in *(a)* the London Borough of Lambeth and *(b)* Streatham constituency. [10366]

Nick Herbert: I have been asked to reply.

Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff engaged by the Metropolitan Police Service and how they are deployed to each of the London boroughs and to specialist units is a matter for the Commissioner (Sir Paul Stephenson) and Metropolitan Police Authority. The future funding settlement for the police will be determined by the spending review which will not be known until October this year.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were made in the area now covered by Worsley and Eccles South constituency in 2009-10. [6138]

Mr Gauke: The information is only available at disproportionate cost.

Premium Bonds

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the merits of increasing the £30,000 maximum holding for Premium Bonds. [10752]

Mr Hoban: On 12 May 2003 the maximum holding limit for Premium Bonds increased from 20,000 Bonds (£20,000) to a limit of 30,000 Bonds (£30,000). The limit of £20,000 was set ten years prior, on 13 April 1993.

The maximum limit was increased in response to high customer demand for National Savings Investments to do so.

Currently, the average Premium Bond holding is £1,763—this includes customers who hold the minimum £1 as well as customers who hold the maximum limit of £30,000. There are 477,020 Premium Bond holders out of a total of 23,648,498 holders who hold the maximum £30,000 investment limit, which represents 2.0% of this total. Some 46.6% of customers hold the minimum value.

These statistics, as at July 2010, show that there are only a small percentage of total Premium Bond holders who hold the maximum investment limit; therefore at this stage there are no plans to make changes to the limit. However, we regularly review the structure of the Premium Bonds scheme, and would make changes if appropriate.

Public Expenditure: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effect implementation of the proposals in the Department of Health's White Paper on NHS reform will have on the amount of money made available under the Barnett formula for Scotland. [11062]

Danny Alexander: Health policy in Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Executive so it is for the Scottish Executive to determine its own policy. Funding for the NHS in England will be determined in the Spending Review. In Scotland it will be for the Scottish Executive to determine health spending within the overall Scottish block budget to be determined in the Spending Review in the usual way.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the final report of the Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales; and if he will make a statement. [11303]

Danny Alexander: The Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales' final report is a report to the Welsh Assembly Government, not to HM Government. However the Treasury looks forward to studying the report and discussing it with the Welsh Assembly Government.

Public Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of unemployment of the recently announced reductions in public spending. [3830]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* To continue with the previous fiscal plans would put the recovery at risk. The Governor of the Bank of England has said:

> "The bigger risk at present, given the experience of the last two weeks, would be for a new government not to put in place clear and credible measures to deal with the fiscal deficit."

By acting now, the Government have reduced the risk of adverse market conditions, which would mean higher interest rates for all, stifle recovery and make the challenges ahead even harder.

Comparisons between the pre-Budget and Budget forecast may be misleading as both are based on market expectations of interest rates. The OBR forecasts that unemployment will come down from 8.1% this year, falling in every year to 6.1% in 2015.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions the Office for Budget responsibility used of employer contributions to each of the four main public sector pension schemes in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011, *(c)* 2012, *(d)* 2013, *(e)* 2014 and *(f)* 2015 in its forecast; and whether these assumed rates took account of cap and share changes. [10973]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the chairman of the Office for Budget Responsibility, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Sir Alan Budd, dated 26 July 2010:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking:

What assumptions the Office of Budgetary Regulation used of employer contributions to each of the four main public sector pension schemes in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013, (e) 2014 and (f) 2015 in its forecast; and whether these assumed rates took account of cap and share changes. (10973)

Following requests for supplementary information on its forecasts, the Office for Budget Responsibility is due to release the information concerning employer contributions to the public service pension schemes on its website

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

on 19 August 2010. This is consistent with the interim OBR's release policy

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/interim_release_process.pdf

Copies of the published material will also be placed in the Library of the House.

These forecast contributions do not take account of the effect of 'cap and share' changes. As illustrated in Table 2.3 of 'Budget 2010: The economy and public finances - supplementary material June 2010' (available here:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/junebudget_supplementary_material.pdf

'cap and share' is separate from the income to pension schemes. The effect of 'cap and share' changes is estimated as a £1 billion increase to pension scheme receipts from 2012-13 onwards.

Rents: Hackney

Meg Hillier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on rent levels in the London Borough of Hackney. [11586]

Mr Gauke: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) collects and holds rental information on domestic property as part of its statutory function to provide determinations for housing benefit and to publish monthly local housing allowance rates. The VOA aggregates information within Broad Rental Market Areas (BRMAs) and not by local authority.

The London borough of Hackney sits across three BRMAs (Inner East London, Central London and Inner North London). The local housing allowance rates determined for the month of July 2010 were based on 10,657 pieces of rental information across these three BRMAs. Historic domestic property rental information collected by rent officers is also held by the VOA.

The LHA-Direct website at:

https://lha-direct.voa.gov.uk/Secure/Default.aspx

includes graphical representations of the rents used to determine the three BRMAs that cover Hackney.

Additionally the Valuation Office Agency holds rental information on non-domestic property, from several sources, to support its statutory functions.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs staff and *(b)* private debt collection agencies in collecting unpaid taxes on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs. [8782]

Mr Gauke: As set out in HMRC's 2009-10 annual accounts the total level of receivables at the end of March 2010 was £26.1 billion, compared to £27.7 billion as at 31 March 2009—a reduction of 5.8%.

Receivables represent amounts due from taxpayers in respect of established liabilities at the end of the reporting period for which payment has not been received.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's report on HMRC's 2009-10 accounts, which discusses HMRC's debt management operations, is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0910.pdf

HMRC's evaluation summary of last year's small scale pilot exercise designed to explore the benefits and risks of using private debt collection agencies to recover some types of debts is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/cap-cap-pilot.pdf

The Government announced in the June 2010 Budget that HMRC will be using debt collection agencies this year to collect £140 million of additional revenue from existing tax debts.

Revenue and Customs: ICT

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what upgrading to HM Revenue and Customs' systems for income assessment and tax collection is in progress; and when he expects the upgrade to be completed. [11345]

Mr Gauke: There are many IT systems that support the assessment and collection of income tax, all of which are in a cycle of continuous upgrade driven by a combination of:

Legislative and budget related change;

Operational efficiency; and

Technical refresh and updating.

Much, but not all of that, particularly the change driven by legislation, budget changes and operational efficiency, is introduced in major IT releases each year. They are in the autumn (usually a weekend in October/November) and on 6 April. The changes within both those releases in 2010-11 are on track to complete on time.

The Government are publishing a discussion paper on potential reform of the PAYE system today.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding he plans to make available to local authorities for the repair and maintenance of potholes in roads for which they are responsible. [510]

Danny Alexander: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 30 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 554W.

Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

Edward Miliband: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on a private sector alternative to a Government loan to Sheffield Forgemasters. [11361]

Mr Hoban: Since 6 May 2010, the Treasury has not received any representations on a private sector alternative to a Government loan to Sheffield Forgemasters.

Tax Allowances: Video Games

Robert Flello: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on tax receipts of a tax relief on the UK games industry. [10793]

Mr Gauke: The estimated fiscal impact of policy decisions made in the Emergency Budget were published in the Budget 2010 policy costings document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget_costings.htm

Tax Evasion: Construction

Richard Harrington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of progress in the implementation of the conclusions of his Department's consultation on the reports of 'False self-employment in construction: taxation of worker's, July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [10824]

Mr Gauke: The previous Government consulted on proposals for a legislative test to determine the employment status of workers in the construction industry for tax and national insurance contributions purposes. The Government have decided to explore with interest groups whether it is possible to achieve a legislative solution that is effective, fair and workable.

Taxation

Mr Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the application of the Rees rules on the introduction of retrospective legislation in light of the announcement by HM Revenue and Customs on employment loss planning on 1 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [11441]

Mr Gauke: The Government are, in general, opposed to retrospective legislation and believe that a very strong case has to be made where legislation is to have retrospective effect. The schemes counteracted by the HM Revenue and Customs, announcement of 1 April 2009 were particularly aggressive and artificial and the Joint Committee on Human Rights last year concluded that the former Government's backdating of action was justifiable in this instance and did not contravene the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Government are committed to reforming the tax system to make it more competitive, simpler, greener and fairer. How they legislate and implement tax policy is key to this reform. The Government have issued a discussion document 'Tax policy making: a new approach' and are engaging with interested parties on the issues explored in that document.

Taxation: Betting Shops

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the effect on revenues accrued by the Exchequer of online betting firms relocating offshore in the latest period for which figures are available. [7797]

Justine Greening: In total, general betting duty typically raises around £350 million to £400 million per annum. When making changes to the tax, the Government consider the likely impact on the sector and wider economy.

A complete assessment of the impact on tax of online firms relocating offshore is not available. The Government have noted the steps taken by some bookmakers to move their online betting operations offshore and are keeping this under review.

VAT

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the administrative cost to small businesses of implementing the proposed rise in the standard rate of value added tax. [10723]

Mr Gauke: The costs to business of the increase in the standard rate of VAT are set out in the Impact Assessment published alongside the June Budget 2010. This is available from the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_impact_assessments.pdf

VAT: Electric Vehicles

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the application of value added tax to electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [11983]

Mr Gauke: Electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles attract the same VAT treatment as conventional equivalent vehicles. No distinction is made on the basis of the way in which a vehicle is powered.

VAT: Pet Foods

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reasons value added tax is levied on packaged pet foods; [11266]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of exempting packaged pet food from value added tax. [11267]

Mr Gauke: Value added tax (VAT) is designed to be a broad-based tax, charged on goods and services supplied in the course of business unless they are specifically relieved from the tax by zero-rating or exemption.

Foods for animals reared for human consumption are generally zero-rated, but VAT law has always excluded most other animal food items from this relief. These exclusions include canned, packaged or prepared pet foods, packaged foods for birds other than poultry or game, and biscuits and meal for cats and dogs.

Agreements with our EU partners prevent us from extending the scope of existing exemptions or zero rates, or introducing new ones. The Government could not therefore exempt pet foods from VAT; no assessment has been made of the merits of doing so.

Welfare Tax Credits

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households which will lose income as a result of the implementation of his proposals to *(a)* reduce the tax credit second income threshold to £40,000, *(b)* increase the first and second withdrawal rate to 41 per cent., *(c)* taper the family element of child tax credit immediately after the child element, *(d)* remove the baby element of child tax credit, *(e)* remove the 50-plus element of working tax credit, *(f)* reverse the child tax credit supplement for children aged one and two years, *(g)* reduce the income disregard from (i) £25,000 to £10,000, and (ii) £10,000 to £5,000, *(h)* introduce an income disregard of £2,500 for falls in income, and *(i)* reduce the backdating of tax credits for changes of circumstances from three months to one month in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what estimate he has made of the average change in total household income consequent on the implementation of each such proposal in each such year in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [4931]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 30 June 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 June, *Official Report,* column 460W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax credit overpayments have been written off in circumstances where claimants were diagnosed with mental health and related illnesses in each of the last three years; [10994]

(2) whether HM Revenue and Customs has discretion to write off tax credit overpayments in circumstances where claimants have been diagnosed with mental health and related illnesses. [10995]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) does not separately record the information requested.

Code of Practice 26 'What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?' sets out how HMRC deal with overpayments of tax credit. If a customer, or more likely their representative, contacts HMRC and advises them that they are suffering from a mental health problem, then HMRC staff will deal with these cases carefully and sympathetically and in some circumstances will agree not to pursue the claimant for payment.

Working Families Tax Credit

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases concerning working family tax credits were raised with *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs by each hon. Member between May 2005 and May 2010. [3856]

Justine Greening: Working tax credits (WTC) and child tax credit (CTC) replaced working families' and disabled person's tax credits (WFTC and DPTC) in April 2003.

Information about the number of WTC and CTC cases raised by each right hon. and hon. Member with HM Treasury and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), in the format requested, is available only at disproportionate cost.

Between 1 May 2005 and 31 May 2010, my right hon. and hon. Members wrote to HMRC Benefits & Credits Operations (formerly the Tax Credit Office) about approximately 32,000 cases and tax credits. MP Helpline advisers handled around 66,500 calls from Members and their caseworkers.

In the same period, right hon. and hon. Members sent around 19,500 letters to Treasury Ministers and HMRC Executive Committee members.

Information on letters from hon. Members received in other areas of HMRC about tax credits in the specified period is not available.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Complaints

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many complaints the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has received in respect of incorrect advice given to hon. Members by its staff; and what steps the Authority has taken in consequence of such complaints. [11727]

Mr Charles Walker: I have been informed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority that the Chief Executive's office has investigated 16 official complaints since 7 May. These complaints are not recorded by type. Where a Member has identified incorrect advice, IPSA has said it will take steps to ensure that correct advice is given in future.

Correspondence

Mrs Main: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the Inter-government Despatch Service may be used to send correspondence to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [10857]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA is able to receive correspondence sent via Government Mail.

IPSA: Board

Glenda Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many times the Board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has met; how many times it will meet in the next 12 months; and if the Authority will publish the agendas and minutes of such meetings. [10203]

Mr Charles Walker: The IPSA Board has met on 17 occasions since its first meeting of 4 December 2009. 12 of these meetings constituted formal board meetings for which minutes and agendas are prepared. The minutes of these meetings, which include the agendas, are made available on the IPSA website once the minutes have been agreed by the IPSA Board.

Ordinarily the IPSA Board meets at least once every month and intends to do so over the next 12 months, with the exception of August 2010.

Members' Staff: Pay

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what estimate the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the cost to the public purse of publishing the *(a)* salary details of staff of hon. Members in £5,000 bands and *(b)* precise salary details of staff of hon. Members who are connected parties in 2010-11. [11515]

Mr Charles Walker: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has informed me that no estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of publishing salary details of MPs' staff. However, any cost is expected to be minimal as it is a straightforward transaction. Following a recently closed consultation, it is no longer proposed to publish precise salary details of staff who are connected parties.

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what criteria the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority uses to determine the constituencies eligible for additional funding to pay for staff of hon. Members; and which constituencies have been so designated. [11648]

Mr Charles Walker: No constituencies have been determined to be eligible for additional funding to pay for staff.

IPSA has, however, confirmed to MPs that, for staff members who were employed before 7 May 2010, IPSA will honour their existing contracting arrangements, including their salaries. In addition, where Members are finding difficulty in staying within budget, they can seek extra support from IPSA by providing it with evidence of their requirements. IPSA will consider that evidence and decide whether the MP should be able to operate with a higher budget for this financial year.

Members: Allowances

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what procedures the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will adopt to reimburse hon. Members for the London Area Living Allowance for the period between the date of the General Election and the date on which the initial claim for that allowance was submitted. [7679]

Mr Charles Walker: The MPs' expenses scheme does not allow the London Area Living Payment to be paid in respect of any period before IPSA is notified that an MP intends to claim it. Consequently, IPSA is not able to backdate any such claims to the date of the general election.

[Pursuant to the original answer published on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 812W, IPSA has provided me with some additional information.]

IPSA has decided to exercise discretion in the operation of the rule described in the original answer.

Where a Member informed IPSA of their intent to claim before 15 June 2010, they will have their claim backdated to 7 May. Where a Member informed IPSA of their intent to claim after this date, their claim will be backdated only to the date they informed IPSA.

This acknowledges that Members would not have been able to submit a claim for LALP before they were provided with access to the online expenses system.

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 812W, on Members: allowances, for what reasons some hon. Members have been advised by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) that claims can be backdated to the date of election; and by what methods an hon. Member was able to submit such a claim before being provided access to IPSA's IT system for claims. [11182]

Mr Charles Walker: Under the MPs' expenses scheme, LALP is not payable in relation to any period before notification is given to IPSA that the MP intends to claim it.

However, IPSA has decided to exercise discretion in the operation of the rule, so that where a Member informed IPSA of their intent to claim before 15 June 2010, they will have their claim backdated to 7 May.

Where a member informed IPSA of their intent to claim after this date, their claim will be backdated only to the date they informed IPSA.

This acknowledges that Members would not have been able to submit a claim for LALP before they were provided with access to the online expenses system.

Members: Claims

Mr Allen: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will take steps to ensure that each notification of reimbursement to Members identifies the invoice or invoices in respect of which the reimbursement is being made. [9883]

Mr Charles Walker: The IPSA remittance advice note or notification of the expense claim payment does identify the invoice or invoices in respect of which reimbursement is being made. The note identifies all correspondence to a unique reference number. This number is created by a MP or his or her proxy when they enter a claim in the Expenses@Work system.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much was claimed by hon. Members from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority for expenditure incurred in June 2010; and how much had been paid to hon. Members in reimbursement for such claims as at 12 July 2010. [10207]

Mr Charles Walker: According to the claims submitted using the online expenses system, in June 2010 hon. Members incurred expenses worth £832,111.50. Many of the claims for these expenses were not submitted until July and are either awaiting the submission of receipts, awaiting validation or have been passed for payment. Up to 12 July 2010, £218,240.80 of this amount had been paid to hon. Members, and claims worth £28,217.28 were returned to hon. Members for further explanation.

Members: Constituency Offices

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what reason the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority does not allow items relating to the constituency office of an hon. Member to be charged to the budget allocated for this purpose; and if he will make a statement. [10010]

Mr Charles Walker: The basis of IPSA's scheme is that Members should receive expenses for costs actually and reasonably incurred. Members can submit claims for costs incurred for the performance of parliamentary functions relating to their constituency office and surgeries from the dedicated Constituency Office Rental Expenditure budget. In addition, Members may submit appropriate claims for expenditure to the General Administrative Expenditure Budget, which covers items such as office equipment, procurement of services, and communications costs.

Richard Burden: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will assess the comparative cost to the public purse of *(a)* continuing existing group and employer and public liability insurance for the offices of hon. Members and *(b)* introducing a system where hon. Members negotiate and pay for the provision of such policies individually and claim reimbursement from the Authority. [10052]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA is considering the best mechanism for the continued provision of employer and public liability insurance, when it ceases to be provided by the House, including whether it should be provided centrally through IPSA or claimed individually by Members. In its analysis, IPSA will consider value for money and the cost to the public purse.

Members: Correspondence

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the average time taken to provide a response to a query made by an hon. Member to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority by *(a)* email, *(b)* hard copy letter and *(c)* telephone call has been since the Authority's inception. [10007]

Mr Charles Walker: At present, IPSA aims to respond to all queries within five working days. IPSA has recently introduced a new case management system which will improve the response time to emails, letters and telephone queries; and ensure accurate records of correspondence between Members and IPSA. Once this system is fully rolled out across IPSA, it will provide Members with information on its performance against these and other service targets.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what system the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority operates to associate emails and letters from hon. Members with the claim to which the correspondence relates. [11602]

Mr Charles Walker: I have been informed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority that, in cases where emails or letters seek information about a particular claim, the Information Team extracts information relating to the claim from the online system and uses this to respond to queries. In cases which are not straightforward, the Information Team may speak directly to members of the Validation Team regarding the progress or details of the claim. Where letters or emails cover receipts or other supporting documentation, these are passed directly to the Validation Team.

Members: Email

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the average time taken by the Independent

Parliamentary Standards Authority to reply to emails from hon. Members has been; and how many emails have not been answered within two weeks in the current parliamentary session. [11335]

Mr Charles Walker: At present, IPSA aims to respond to all emails and letters within five working days. It is not possible to readily provide data regarding the percentage of queries which have been answered within this timeframe to date. IPSA has recently introduced a new case management system. This will both reduce the response time to emails, and ensure accurate records of correspondence between Members and IPSA. IPSA will provide Members with information on its performance against these and other service targets once this system is fully rolled out across the organisation.

Members: Travel

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what procedures the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority plans to put in place during the recess for hon. Members who are unable to verify travel card statements within seven days. [11333]

Mr Charles Walker: Members are required to submit the completed online travel card form within 14 days of it being available on the system with the corresponding invoices/receipts being sent within 21 days. If for a particular month an individual Member is unable to comply with these time scales (for example if they are away on business or holiday) they should e-mail info@parliamentarystandards.org.uk with the reason and the date they will be able to submit the completed form. When all or a large number of Members may be unable to comply with the normal time scales (for example during the summer or Christmas recess) then the time scales will be automatically increased to allow for this fact.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what steps the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is taking to *(a)* identify hon. Members who have not received electronic copies of their travel card statements and *(b)* ensure that such hon. Members receive their statements. [11334]

Mr Charles Walker: All Members who have incurred expenditure on the travelcard within the month will receive a paper copy sent to their home address. The paper copy will be sent at the end of each month. All Members who have a registered proxy on the online expenses system will also receive an electronic copy, sent to their proxy. Where Members do not have a proxy, they may use an alternate logon to access the electronic statement. We are working on a system change to develop an improved IT solution to this issue.

Karen Bradley: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on reimbursement of travel expenses to hon. Members in respect of travel by taxi with heavy luggage between a London rail terminal and the Palace of Westminster. [11729]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA's policy is that it will reimburse taxi fares where a journey is necessary and at least one of the following criteria is satisfied: no other reasonable method of transport is available for all or part of the journey, or alternative methods of transport are impracticable due to pregnancy, disability, illness or injury of the MP or of a staff member. Heavy luggage may be a factor in the MP deciding these criteria apply. Whether the journey is between a London rail terminus and the Palace of Westminster is not, in itself, a criterion, although taxi fares will not be reimbursed for any part of an MP's daily commute between their London home and Westminster, or their constituency home and office.

Offices

Richard Burden: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on payment for *(a)* office equipment and furniture, *(b)* rent, business rates and utilities attributable to its office premises and *(c)* office consumables (i) directly from the Authority's budget and (ii) by members of the Authority's board and senior staff on the basis of retrospective reimbursement. [10054]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA, as an employer, provides office premises and facilities for its staff directly from its budget rather than on the basis of retrospective reimbursement.

Operating Costs

Glenda Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* estimated annual running cost is of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's computerised claims system. [10205]

Mr Charles Walker: The capital cost of the software expenses@work was £126,000 (including VAT at 17.5%). The estimated annual running cost of expenses@work is not identified separately. The support contract for all IT software support at IPSA, which includes support for Microsoft Office, the Financial Accounting System "Great Plains", the Payroll software "Jane HR" as well as expenses@work, is £116,000 (including VAT at 17.5%) per annum.

Pay

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) have received reward and recognition payments since its inception; and how many such payments IPSA expects to make in 2010-11. [11513]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA's staff recognition scheme enables staff to nominate colleagues for modest awards in recognition of outstanding performance. The scheme has only just commenced and so no staff members have so far received such awards. It is not possible to predict how many staff will receive such awards in 2010-11.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff seconded to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) from Government Departments have received performance-related bonus payments since its inception; and how many such payments IPSA expects to make in 2010-11. [11314]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA does not routinely collect information on bonuses paid to seconded staff by their home Departments. Any performance-related bonuses paid to staff seconded to IPSA from Government Departments have been in respect of performance periods prior to the date when IPSA became operational. IPSA will not pay any performance-related bonuses to seconded or other staff in 2010-11.

Recruitment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what recruitment procedure was followed for those working at the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority processing claims from hon. Members; and what relevant previous experience such staff have had. [10036]

Mr Charles Walker: The processing of claims from Members by IPSA is handled by staff from a range of backgrounds. A significant number of staff are drawn from the House of Commons Members' Pay and Allowances team and have considerable experience of processing MPs' claims. They are complemented by temporary staff selected for their experience and skills. A total of 29 staff with relevant experience will have transferred from the House of Commons to IPSA by August 2010.

IPSA has made a significant investment in staff training. All staff attend an induction course which covers IPSA values, behaviours and team working, the MPs' Expenses Scheme, data assurance and protection, and operational functions.

Temporary Employment

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many agency staff have been contracted to work at the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each week since 1 May 2010. [11823]

Mr Charles Walker: The number of agency staff that have been contracted by IPSA has varied by month and is illustrated as follows.

	Number
Week of 7 May 2010	56
Week of 14 May 2010	56
Week of 21 May 2010	56
Week of 28 May 2010	56
Week of 4 June 2010	61
Week of 11 June 2010	61
Week of 18 June 2010	61
Week of 25 June 2010	61
Week of 2 July 2010	56
Week of 9 July 2010	56
Week of 16 July 2010	56

Trade Unions: Finance

Jim Sheridan: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, (1) for what reason the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority decided that trade union subscriptions for staff of hon. Members should not be deducted from their pay at payroll; [11928]

(2) what estimate the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the annual cost of deducting trade union subscriptions for the staff of hon. Members from their pay at payroll. [11929]

Mr Charles Walker: In the first months of operation, IPSA's priorities have been to pay the salaries of MPs' staff and to make the required statutory and pension deductions. IPSA has not made an assessment of the cost of deducting trade union subscriptions for MPs' staff.

IPSA is currently reviewing the situation in relation to trade union subscriptions and hopes to offer this as a facility in the near future.

WALES

Environment Agency's water supply schemes: Wales

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will discuss with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers the operation of the Environment Agency's water supply schemes in Wales. [9925]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Wales, and I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues.

The Environment Agency and water companies in Wales are in regular contact to ensure the efficient operation of water supply schemes so that water supplies and the environment in Wales are protected during periods of low water flows. While we have been facing exceptional circumstances this year with the driest start to the year in England and Wales for 80 years, we are confident that there is a robust framework in place for dealing with this type of situation.

In addition, the Welsh Assembly Government is currently undertaking a feasibility study to investigate the possibility of creating a single separate environment organisation for Wales. This will include discussions regarding the operation of water supply schemes in Wales. An initial report will be put to Welsh Assembly Government Ministers in the autumn.

Constituencies: Wales

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans she has to discuss proposed changes to the number of parliamentary constituencies in Wales with *(a)* representatives of local government and civic society in Wales, *(b)* the Wales Trades Union Congress and *(c)* the Wales CBI. [11753]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State and I intend to discuss the implementation of the Government's commitment to fewer and more equally-sized parliamentary constituencies with a wide range of interested parties in Wales, including the Welsh Local Government Association, the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, the Wales Trades Union Congress and the Wales CBI.

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will make it her policy to support the use of the British-Irish Council and the Joint Ministerial Council to discuss the effect on Wales of the Government's proposed constitutional reforms. [11754]

Mr David Jones: The Government discussed the coalition agreement and those elements within it, including constitutional reform, which were likely to be of most significance to the devolved Administrations at the plenary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) in June. The Government's constitutional reform agenda was also discussed in July at the inter-governmental senior officials' forum which supports the JMC.

The Secretary of State for Wales has discussed the constitutional reforms with the Welsh Assembly Government, and we will continue to work collaboratively with the devolved Administrations as the reforms are implemented. The forward work programme for the JMC and JMC (Domestic) will be the subject of discussion by Ministers collectively at the first meeting of JMC (Domestic) in the autumn.

These matters are not appropriate for discussion at the British-Irish Council, which contains members who are not part of the United Kingdom.

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many items of correspondence she has received in support of the Government's proposals to reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies in Wales. [11755]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has received two items of correspondence relating specifically to the Government's proposals for fewer parliamentary constituencies of more equal size. Both sought clarification of the proposals.

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent representations she has received on proposals to change the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies in Wales. [11756]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales and I have discussed the Government's commitment to fewer parliamentary constituencies of more equal size with a number of interested parties, and will discuss the implementation of the reforms set out in the Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bill during the summer.

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the Government's proposals to change the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies in Wales. [11757]

Mr David Jones: The previous general review of parliamentary constituencies in Wales concluded in 2005, and cost £649,498. This formed part of the £13.6 million total cost of the last boundary reviews in each part of the United Kingdom (although these reviews did not take place simultaneously).

The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, introduced on 22 July, makes provision for a boundary review to be completed in each part of the United Kingdom before October 2013. The precise cost of the reviews will depend on the final form of the legislation and the approach adopted by the Commissions. However, we anticipate that the total cost will be less than the aggregate cost of the last set of reviews.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps she has taken to reduce the running costs of her Department since her appointment. [9817]

Mr David Jones: As part of our preparations for the spending review, officials in my Department are currently formulating proposals to reduce the running costs of the Wales Office.

We have already achieved a number of savings since May 2010. For example, all train travel undertaken by Ministers and officials within the Wales Office is now by standard class. My office has also given notice to cancel the car contracted for my use in London, thereby halving this Department's previous number of ministerial cars in London.

Public Sector: Manpower

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the effect on the *(a)* Welsh economy and *(b)* number of public sector jobs in Wales of proposed reductions in public expenditure in Wales. [11752]

Mrs Gillan: As specific spending plans will be announced in the autumn, following the comprehensive spending review, it is not possible to make any worthwhile assessment of the effects of public expenditure reductions in Wales.

We remain committed, however, to working with the Welsh Assembly Government to minimise the impacts of these necessary savings both on the Welsh economy and on public sector workers themselves.

Railways: Electrification

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the proposed electrification of the South Wales to London rail line. [11933]

Mrs Gillan: As I outlined in my evidence to the Welsh Affairs Committee on Tuesday 20 July, I have had a number of informal discussions with the Secretary of State, and will be meeting him shortly to discuss the issue in greater detail.

Ryder Cup Tournament

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the First Minister on the hosting of the Ryder Cup tournament in Newport, 1 to 3 October 2010; and if she will make a statement. [11623]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Wales, has regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues affecting Wales, including the Ryder Cup.

She has recently visited the Celtic Manor Hotel and Spa Resort to view the Ryder Cup Golf Course for herself and hear about the facilities and the preparations that are taking place to cater for this world renowned tournament.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Chevening Scholarships Programme

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people from Afghanistan have been awarded a Chevening scholarship for 2010-11. [8964]

Mr Hague: Six candidates were informed last week that they have been awarded scholarships. A further three awards will be offered once shortlisted candidates have heard whether their university places have been confirmed.

Afghanistan: Christianity

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the protection of rights to Christian belief and worship in that country in accordance with its obligations under the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. [11855]

Alistair Burt: The Government strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief. We are working to support all individuals who face discrimination and persecution on the basis of religion, wherever they are in the world. Article two of the Afghan constitution provides for freedom of religion, and we expect the Afghan Government to fully implement this. We have a regular dialogue with the Afghan Government on human rights, including the need to ensure the security of all Afghans, regardless of religion. In addition, we will also raise particular cases of concern with the Afghan Government as necessary.

Albania: Foreign Relations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the Minister for Europe in his Department last met with the Albanian Ambassador to the UK. [11197]

Mr Lidington: Since taking up his post in May 2010, I have not yet had an opportunity to have an official meeting with the Albanian ambassador to the UK.

Brazil: Embassies

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees work in the UK embassy in Brasilia; and how many are assigned to work on *(a)* climate change issues and *(b)* support for UK citizens who have been the victims of crime in Brazil. [2815]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently reviewing the basis on which work force information is supplied and we are, therefore, unable to reply fully at this stage. We will, however, place a copy of this information in the Library of the House as soon as possible.

British Council: Offices

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which British Council offices are under consideration for possible closure. [6625]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary set out in his speech on 1 July 2010, the British Council has a crucial role to play in raising the profile of the UK overseas, projecting the UK's core values to the world and contributing to the strong networks that will underpin the UK's engagement with emerging powers. The British Council's network of country offices is constantly reviewed to ensure it is an efficient and effective platform for the UK. There is a Government-wide spending review under way. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British Council will be expected to contribute to reducing the deficit as part of that review. No decision will be taken on the future of the British Council's operations until the result of that review has been settled.

British Nationals Abroad: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 508W, on British nationality: prisoners, on how many occasions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* British embassies and consulates have made representations to overseas governments regarding fair trial concerns in respect of UK citizens charged with offences in those countries in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [11206]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We will consider making representations to the local authorities in any case where a British national in detention has not been treated in line with internationally accepted standards. This may include cases where the trial does not follow fair trial standards, or where there is a complaint about mistreatment or discrimination. However, while we keep records of individual cases, we could only produce an overall figure for the number of times we have made representations on fair trial issues by individually going through the records of all British nationals who have been in detention abroad. To provide this information would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11388]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) paid 98.3%, 96.1% and 97% of supplier invoices within ten days of receipt of a valid invoice in April, May and June 2010 respectively.

In May 2010 the Government's target to pay 90% of supplier invoices within 10 working days was replaced with a new target to pay 80% of supplier invoices in five working days. The FCO supports this important Government initiative, and paid 84.29% and 90.5% of supplier invoices within five working days of receipt of a valid invoice in May 2010 and June 2010 respectively.

The FCO is aware of the importance of paying suppliers promptly, and makes every effort to pay valid supplier invoices as quickly as possible. Specific information about the size of our suppliers is not held centrally and thus identifying the percentage of payments made to small and medium-sized enterprises would result in disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an estimate of the monetary value of the contracts between his Department and private sector companies which will be cancelled under his Department's planned spending reductions. [10170]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is liaising with the Office of Government Commerce, which is reviewing contracts with key suppliers across central Government. It is too early to determine which, if any, contracts will be cancelled, so accordingly we cannot identify the monetary value of possible cancellation costs.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff his Department employed in each year since 1997. [8839]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently reviewing the basis on which work force information is supplied and we are, therefore, unable to reply fully at this stage. We will, however, place a copy of this information in the Library of the House as soon as possible.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7973]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office expenditure on all car services provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency covering use by officials and Ministers during the period 12 May to 12 July 2010 was £37,709.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for which of his Department's other Ministers a car and driver is provided for that Minister's regular or dedicated use. [9884]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign Secretary uses police close protection drivers. Four of the five remaining Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have a Government Car Service car allocated to them.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9607]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) on 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-24W, and the written ministerial statement issued by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's total *(a)* capital and *(b)* current spending was in each year since 1995 in (i) cash and (ii) constant prices; how many full-time equivalent (A) UK-based and (B) locally-engaged staff his Department employed in each such year; and how much his Department spent on consultants (1) contracted to his Department and (2) employed by other organisations under contract to his Department in each such year. [10143]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* Capital and current spending for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is only available on a consistent basis, including Machinery of Government changes and changes to the classification of central Government spending, back to 2004-05. This has been published in Table 1 of annex A to the 2009-10 Resource Accounts (HC 74).

The figures are reproduced in the following table along with their equivalent at constant prices:

£ million

	Capital spending[1]		*Current (Resource) spending*[1]	
	Cash	*Constant prices*	*Cash*	*Constant prices*
2004-05	113	128	1,683	1,900
2005-06	133	147	1,811	2,008
2006-07	161	173	1,813	1,945
2007-08	228	238	1,819	1,897
2008-09	227	230	2,000	2,030
2009-10	201	201	2,192	2,192

[1] Deflated by GDP index, 2009-10=100

With regard to the information requested about full-time equivalent UK-based and locally-engaged staff, the FCO is currently reviewing the basis on which workforce information is supplied and we are, therefore, unable to reply fully at this stage. We will, however, place a copy of this information in the Library of the House as soon as possible.

An accurate, comparable breakdown of spend on consultants from 1995 to the present can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Regulations

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7152]

Alistair Burt: We currently have no regulations under formal review, but we will consider any suggestions relevant to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office made through the Your Freedom website:

http://yourfreedom.hmg.gov.uk

launched by my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister on 1 July 2010. This gives members of the public the opportunity to suggest existing regulations for removal.

Departmental Secondment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants from each Government department are on secondment to EU institutions. [9281][1]

Mr Lidington: There are approximately 110 British civil servants on secondment to the EU institutions.

The largest groups are from the following Departments:

Department for International Development: 19

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: 10

Department for Transport: 16

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: nine

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs: six

Her Majesty's Treasury: six

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: six.

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7974]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 30 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 588W, and 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 100W.

In addition, the Government publish on a quarterly basis the expenses incurred by the most senior officials which includes use of the Government Car Service and other travel expenses.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8229]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for York Central (Hugh Bayley) to his parliamentary question 7973.

As set out in the Ministerial Code, Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Developing Countries: Carbon Emissions

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in respect of which of the 22 priority countries under the Low Carbon High Growth Programme Fund his Department's programme spending will be reduced. [7879]

Mr Hague: I advised the House of my intention to cut the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's spending on its Low Carbon High Growth programme by around £3 million this financial year and to explore alternative sources of funding for the programme for future years in my written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS. Since then, we have scaled back programme spending in all Low Carbon High Growth priority countries for 2010-11. We have sought to minimise the extent of cuts to programmes in the key emerging economies.

Diplomatic Service: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the merits of allowing nominees for senior ambassadorial appointments to appear before the Foreign Affairs Committee for confirmation hearings. [11196]

Mr Lidington: Appointments in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are made on merit, on the basis of fair and open competition, in accordance with the Diplomatic Service Order in Council 1991. The Government will continue to offer the Committee post-appointment hearings for the appointment of non-diplomats to diplomatic posts.

EC Nationals: Citizenship

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the draft regulation on the European Citizen's Initiative proposed by the European Commission; and if he will make a statement. [10741]

Mr Lidington: The Government welcome the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) as an innovation to empower the citizens of Europe and to help address the perceived democratic deficit in the European Union. In order to avoid a bureaucratic or burdensome outcome for either citizens or member states, the UK will continue to press for changes to the draft provisions on requirements for citizens to provide varying amounts of personal data before being able to join a petition, and the means by which these data will be verified by member states. Going forward therefore, the Government will be seeking a more flexible, open and citizen-friendly system.

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[1] *[Official Report, 13 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 5MC.]*

Eritrea: Christianity

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist Christians in Eritrea at risk of persecution. [10002]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are very concerned about the lack of freedom of religious expression in Eritrea, and about the imprisonment and reports of torture of members of certain religious groups. Following up reports of human rights abuses is difficult in Eritrea, but we have repeatedly pressed the Eritrean Government to address the situation. At the United Nations Universal Periodic Review last year the United Kingdom called on the Eritrean Government to address concerns relating to religious detainees. British officials raise human rights issues with the Eritrean Government at every suitable opportunity in Asmara and with the Eritrean embassy in London. The EU also has an ongoing political dialogue with Eritrea and human rights concerns, including religious freedom, are raised as part of this.

EU Countries: Embassies

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* UK-based and *(b)* locally-employed staff are employed by his Department in each of the member states of the EU. [1724]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently reviewing the basis on which work force information is supplied and we are, therefore, unable to reply fully at this stage. We will, however, place a copy of this information in the Library of the House as soon as possible.

France: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on anti-Semitism in France; and if he will make a statement. [10556]

Mr Lidington: In 2009 there were 832 acts of anti-Semitism recorded in France.

In the past week, there have been reports of two separate incidents of anti-Semitism in France; the vandalism of graves in a Jewish cemetery and an attack on a synagogue outside of Paris. The French Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux, has condemned the attacks as "despicable, intolerable and shocking" and underlined the French authorities' commitment to punishing the perpetrators.

The Government condemn anti-Semitism and all forms of racism.

Grants

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which organisations his Department provides grant funding; and how much it has provided to each in each of the last 10-years. [10636]

Mr Jeremy Browne *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided the following Grant in Aid funding to the BBC World Service, British Council, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), the Great Britain China Centre (GBCC) and the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (MACC).

£ million

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
BBC World Service	207	187.9	201	220.1	225.1	239.1	239.5	255	265	268
British Council	137.7	145	151.5	162.5	172.1	189.2	188.1	189.5	201	200.8
WFD	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
GBCC	0.28	0.29	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
MACC	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2

These are by far the greatest beneficiaries of FCO grants. Smaller grants have also been made to project implementers and other organisations around the world to help deliver UK foreign policy objectives. Budgets in the FCO are devolved to over 260 posts and details of these payments are not held centrally. As a result, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Indonesia: Islam

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Indonesia on the restrictions placed on the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Indonesia, with particular reference to Ahmadiyyas in Lombok displaced from their homes. [11578]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have made a number of representations to the Indonesian Government regarding the importance of allowing the Ahmadiyya community, including those in Lombok, to practise their faith and ensure they are protected from harm. Most recently the issue was raised during the EU Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue in Jakarta in June 2010.

Iraq: Embassies

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 868-69W, on Iraq: embassies, how much each company listed in the answer paid towards the Queen's Birthday celebration; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each sponsorship agreement. [11769]

Alistair Burt: Each company listed in our previous answer of 15 July 2010 contributed US$800 to the cost of hosting events for the Queen's Birthday celebration in Baghdad, Basra and Erbil on 16 June 2010.

Our embassy in Baghdad wanted to reflect the breadth of engagement of British Companies in Iraq during the Queen's Birthday celebrations locally. By securing sponsorship in this way the embassy were also able to achieve best value for the public purse.

There were no formal sponsorship agreements made.

Israel: Educational Exchanges

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department allocated for the British-Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much it plans to allocate for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [10354]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has committed £42,000 to the British-Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership (BIRAX) over the past three years as follows:

	Committed funds (£)
2008-09	5,000
2009-10	27,000
2010-11	10,000

No budgets have been set for 2011-12 and the FCO will decide allocations for this and future years in the light of the spending round that is expected to be conclude this autumn.

BIRAX helps to build and enhance university links between Britain and Israel. BIRAX currently supports 15 innovative scientific research projects involving 17 different universities from across the UK and Israel.

Overseas Trade: Israel

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what his policy is on the sale of goods in the UK that were sourced, packaged or grown on Israeli settlements which the United Nations has declared illegal; [10923]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals for a ban on the sale of goods in the UK that were sourced, packaged or grown on Israeli settlements which the United Nations has declared illegal. [10924]

Alistair Burt: The Government's policy on settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is clear. Settlements are not only illegal under international law and in direct contravention of Israel's Roadmap commitments, but they also represent an attempt to create 'facts on the ground' which makes a two-state solution harder to achieve. It is important that consumers in the UK are able to make fully informed decision concerning the products they buy. That is why, in December 2009, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs introduced guidelines in consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to label more accurately produce from Israeli settlements that are sold in the UK. This does not represent a ban on the sale of products from Israeli settlements in the UK.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he intends to reply to my letter dated 2 2010 with regard to Dr Jill Lovecy. [9352]

Mr Hague: I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 12 July. I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member's letter and for the delay in answering this question. I have reminded officials that this should not happen again.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to my letter of 10 June 2010 on behalf of the Chagos Islands all-party parliamentary group. [11921]

Mr Lidington: We did not receive the letter referred to by the hon. Member for Islington North, but have now sought to obtain a copy and will reply as soon as possible.

MI6

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will commission research into the level of public trust in the Secret Intelligence Service. [8818]

Alistair Burt: The Government do not intend to commission research into the level of public trust in the Secret Intelligence Service.

Slovakia: Cluster Munitions

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to press Slovakia to become a signatory of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. [11448]

Mr Hague: The convention on cluster munitions is the most significant disarmament agreement of recent years. The Government are committed to globalising the convention and thereby ending the unacceptable civilian suffering caused by use of these munitions. We urge all states not yet party to it to sign and ratify the convention.

The EU's Working Group on Global Arms Control and Disarmament (CODUN) regularly considers the convention on cluster munitions and discusses how member states are advancing its humanitarian aims. Having signed and ratified the convention, the UK plays a leading role in these debates and has actively urged not just Slovakia, but the other six EU member states that have not yet done so to sign the convention.

Somalia: Foreign Relations

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia since his appointment. [10362]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have had no discussions with representatives of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia since the new Government was formed. There is however regular contact between Somali Ministers and our officials based in Nairobi. The Minister for Africa, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), will meet Ministers from the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia during the course of his visit to the region, including at the African Union summit.

The Government remain committed to supporting Somalis as they rebuild their country. We support the UN-led Djibouti peace process and the political reconciliation efforts of the TFG.

Somalia: Peace Negotiations

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to secure progress towards peace in Somalia. [10361]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government remain committed to supporting Somalis as they rebuild their country. My hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Henry Bellingham), Minister for Africa, works closely with my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for International Development and the Secretary of State for Defence working alongside EU partners and the UN to support international efforts to bring lasting peace to Somalia.

The root causes of the instability need to be addressed, taking steps to promote stability and better governance. We have a tri-departmental conflict-prevention budget of £7 million this financial year. We believe a Somali-led approach is needed, focusing on the political, military and economic. These three strands of activity need to be properly sequenced and interwoven if there is to be success.

On the political front we support the UN-led Djibouti peace process and the political reconciliation efforts of the transitional federal Government which is taking the lead in the delivery of peace and stability in Somalia. The peace process provides the best hope for Somalis to turn their country around, form an effective Government and improve security and humanitarian access.

The UK is willing to work with the Somali authorities, the UN and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and all other stakeholders to help build a stronger and more accountable security sector, providing that a coherent plan is in place. The UK has supported AMISOM since its inception and we will continue to look at ways in which we can further support the mission.

Improved security enables better service delivery and economic growth. We are working across Government to help promote a peaceful, politically stable and economically viable Somalia.

South Africa and Namibia: Sterilisation

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the practice of forced sterilisation in *(a)* South Africa and *(b)* Namibia; whether he has made representations to the Governments of (i) South Africa and (ii) Namibia in consequence; and if he will make a statement. [11287]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK is closely following Namibia's ongoing court case involving the alleged sterilisation of three HIV-positive women. Although we cannot comment on the case while it is sub judice, the UK will continue to monitor allegations of human rights abuses and to promote women's rights including through the Department for International Development's Southern African regional programmes. We are not aware of any reports of cases of forced sterilisation in South Africa.

Sudan: War Crimes

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the International Criminal Court in bringing the President of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, to trial. [11527]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK has been a consistently strong supporter of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as an independent judicial institution, and of its engagement on Darfur. We have repeatedly urged the Government of Sudan to cooperate with the court over the arrest warrants it has issued for President Bashir and other Sudanese citizens. We have taken action, in liaison with key partners, to limit Bashir's ability to travel internationally, by highlighting to potential host countries UN Security Council Resolution 1593 of 2005 which urged all UN member states to co-operate with the ICC, and the particular legal obligations of States party to the ICC.

SCOTLAND

Act of Settlement 1701

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on the Act of Settlement 1701. [11948]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with my ministerial colleagues on a range of matters and I refer the hon. Gentleman to the closing speech by the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform in the Adjournment Debate on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1109, called by the hon. Member for Rhondda (Chris Bryant).

Commonwealth Games 2014

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he plans to take to help secure for Glasgow a legacy from the 2014 Commonwealth Games; and what discussions he has had with the Leader of Glasgow City Council. [10817]

David Mundell: I am a strong supporter of the Commonwealth games coming to Glasgow and hope that they will provide a lasting legacy in inspiring more Scots to participate in sport and use the excellent new facilities. During a recent visit to Glasgow I saw some of the infrastructure projects which will support the games and discussed how Government could best support the games with the leader of Glasgow city council.

Constituencies

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Advocate General for Scotland on the exemption of Orkney and Shetland constituency from plans to reduce the size of Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland. [11839]

Michael Moore: The Government are determined to establish greater equality for votes cast in general elections across the United Kingdom. We have proposed the two exceptions of Orkney and Shetland as well as Na h-Eileanan an Iar as those islands are less accessible and harder to traverse. We have concluded that exceptions for these areas are justified by their particular geography.

The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill also provides for an upper limit on the geographical size of a constituency.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7615]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office only came into existence on 1 July 1999.

The Scotland Office website came into existence in 2004-05 with an initial set up cost of £24,718.

In 2008-09 The Scotland Office spent £15,052.50 plus VAT on maintenance. The cost included the redevelopment of the site including a comprehensive in-house content management system, representing considerable value for money and cost savings for the office when implemented as well as now and in the future.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9997]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office paid £2,007,214 in remuneration to its civil servants in 2009-10.

Departmental Travel

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his ministerial engagements were on 13 July 2010; and what travel he undertook for the purpose of those engagements. [10800]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State undertook a number of ministerial engagements in Scotland on 13 July. He travelled to and between these engagements in the ministerial car.

Economic Growth: Glasgow

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has made an assessment of the likely effect of the expenditure reduction announced on 24 May 2010 on economic growth in Glasgow. [10812]

David Mundell: The OBR forecasts for the economy published at the time of the Budget reflect the savings to departmental budgets announced on 24 May 2010 but these are not available on a regional basis. Scotland's share of this spending reduction is £332 million—around 1% of the Scottish Government's departmental expenditure limit. Our necessary plan to cut the record budget deficit that this Government inherited, goes hand in hand with our determination to return sustained growth to the Scottish economy.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he next plans to meet the Leader of Glasgow city council to discuss the prospects for economic growth in Glasgow. [10813]

David Mundell: I have had productive discussions with the Leader of Glasgow city council on a wide range of issues including the prospects of the Scottish economy. I also visited the Clyde Gateway project which offers significant potential for economic growth in Glasgow. Our plan to cut the record budget deficit that this Government inherited, goes hand in hand with a sustained economic recovery.

Elections

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions on what dates he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Government, *(b)* the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, *(c)* the Electoral Commission in Scotland and *(d)* electoral registration officers in Scotland on proposals to enable the Scottish Parliament to change the date of elections to the Scottish Parliament in 2015. [8580]

Michael Moore: Following the Deputy Prime Minister's statement on 5 July 2010, I wrote to the First Minister, the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, other party leaders, and the Scottish Parliament's independent MSP, confirming this Government's commitment to fixed term parliaments so that no longer will the incumbent administration be able to decide the date of the general election. I acknowledged that concern exists for combining elections for the House of Commons and the Scottish Parliament on the same date and confirmed that the Government would engage with them to discuss this matter further.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has plans for a public consultation on the methodology for determining the date upon which the elections for the Scottish Parliament will be held in 2015. [8581]

Michael Moore: There are legitimate concerns about the impact of combining the elections on the same day, and I have said that I am keen to engage with other interested parties to find a solution that addresses those concerns.

Food Standards Agency

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the change in functions formerly carried out by the Food Standards Agency in Scotland. [11886]

Michael Moore: The Secretary of State for Health has decided to transfer nutrition policy for England from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to the Department of Health. The FSA retains current responsibility for nutrition policy in Scotland.

Personnel: Public Sector

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on projected trends in employment in the public sector in Scotland attributable to public expenditure reductions in the next five years; [11946]

(2) what estimate he has made of the gross reduction in the number of jobs in the public sector in Scotland in the next five years. [11947]

Michael Moore: I have had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a wide range of topics. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility published their employment forecasts for the whole of the UK on 30 June 2010. Based on policies in the June 2010 Budget, in three years' time public sector employment will be 150,000 higher compared to the forecast based on policies in the March 2010 Budget. Total employment is forecast to rise each year over the next five years.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its predecessor has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the value of facilities provided by his Department and its predecessor for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11712]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the Scotland Office has made no payments to trade unions. The Scotland Office does not maintain a record of facilities provided.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department and its predecessor spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997; [11713]

(2) how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessor spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11714]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The office does not have any staff who spend time undertaking trade union duties or activities.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Government Equalities Office's :Regulations

Mr Anderson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities which of the Government Equalities Office's regulations are under review; and if she will make a statement. [7139]

Lynne Featherstone: In the Budget the Government announced plans for reducing the regulatory burdens on business, including the introduction of a one-in-one-out system for new regulations and a fundamental review of all regulation inherited from the previous Government scheduled for introduction over the coming year.

The Government have agreed to implement the core simplification provisions of the Equality Act 2010 in October this year and are looking at how the rest of the Act can be implemented in the best way for business.

The Your Freedom website launched by the Deputy Prime Minister on 1 July 2010, will also give members of the public the opportunity to suggest existing regulations for removal, in order to reduce the burden on business.

Church of England: Equal Opportunities

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent representations she has received on equality in appointments in the Church of England. [10773]

Lynne Featherstone: I have recently received one representation about equality in appointments in the Church of England.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in that office. [7306]

Lynne Featherstone: One civil servant is employed to write speeches for the Government Equalities Office. Civil servants from across the Department are also involved as part of their duties in drafting ministerial speeches. Special advisers will also input on occasion.

Women's National Commission

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she plans to end the Women's National Commission. [11807]

Lynne Featherstone: The coalition Government have made clear their commitment to increase the accountability of all public bodies and reduce their number and costs. The Women's National Commission is included in this exercise along with most non-departmental public bodies.

My Department, the Government Equalities Office, has written to the chair of the Commission, Baroness Gould of Potternewton, inviting the WNC to respond to the three tests which all NDPBs are being assessed against. We are now considering the reply. I have also met with Baroness Gould to discuss the review and listen to her views.

The review will conclude in the autumn and the result will be made public.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his proposed increase in funding for development in Afghanistan will be allocated to *(a)* security, *(b)* economic development and *(c)* service delivery. [11931]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In order to deliver the results set out in my written ministerial statement of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 18WS, the additional funding for Afghanistan (2010-11 to 2013-14) has been provisionally allocated as follows: *(a)* £67 million for improving security and political stability; *(b)* £78 million for economic stability, growth and jobs; and *(c)* £55 million for helping the Afghan Government deliver vital basic services.

This will support the priorities set out by the Afghan Government at last week's Kabul conference. Progress will be closely monitored against agreed benchmarks to ensure results are achieved.

Armajaro Holdings Limited

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has *(a)* had any meetings with and *(b)* received any representations from the directors or other representatives of (i) Armajaro Holdings Ltd and (ii) Brompton Capital Ltd since taking office. [11734]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I received a letter from Armajaro Holdings Ltd dated 1 July, which has been passed to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for reply. I have not held any meetings with Armajaro Holdings Ltd or Brompton Capital Ltd or received other representations from them since taking office as Secretary of State for International Development.

Bilateral Aid: HIV Infection

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on bilateral aid targeting *(a)* HIV and AIDS and *(b)* reproductive health in each year since 2005-06. [10960]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following in bilateral aid targeting HIV and AIDS and reproductive health in each year since 2005-06.

					£ millions
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DFID bilateral expenditure directly targeting reproductive health	49.2	55.8	55.9	110.3	117.4
DFID bilateral expenditure directly targeting HIV and AIDS	130.9	128.7	134.2	158.0	146.3

As laid out in the coalition programme, the Government are committed to restricting the spread of major diseases like HIV and AIDS. Details of future support to HIV and AIDS related programmes will be determined in light of the ongoing aid reviews.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 776W, on the Common Agricultural Policy, what priorities he has set for future discussions on the long-term stability of food production; what representations he plans to make at EU level on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy; and if he will make a statement. [10977]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

My priority is to achieve a market-driven and consumer focused agricultural sector, which is crucial for both European and global food security. We will need to increase food production sustainably through improving productivity and competitiveness in the UK, EU and beyond.

My ministerial colleagues and I will continue to meet with the European Commission and other EU member states to discuss the common agricultural policy.

Conflict Prevention

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects the Government's cross-Whitehall conflict strategy to be published. [9975]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I have been asked to reply.

Once work on a National Security Strategy and the Strategic Defence and Security Review has been concluded, my hon. Friend, the Member for North West Norfolk (Henry Bellingham), Minister responsible for Conflict Issues, will consider how to take forward work to underpin a cross-departmental approach to tackling conflict.

Departmental Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 501W, on departmental manpower, how many of his Department's 96 governance advisers have a degree in *(a)* political science or politics and *(b)* public policy. [10497]

Mr O'Brien: At least 31 of the Department's governance advisers have a degree in political science or politics, including single or joint honours.

At least nine of the Department's governance advisers have a degree in public policy.

Departmental Private Education

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on continuity of education allowance at *(a)* Charterhouse School, *(b)* Dulwich College, *(c)* Eton College, *(d)* Harrow School, *(e)* Marlborough College, *(f)* Rugby School, *(g)* Westminster School, *(h)* Winchester College, *(i)* Cheltenham Ladies College, *(j)* Roedean School, *(k)* St Paul's School, *(l)* Fettes College and *(m)* Gordonstoun School in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [11454]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In the 2009-10 financial year, 48 members of DFID's staff on overseas postings received an education allowance. The monies spent on education allowances at each of the schools and colleges listed, are detailed in the following table.

School	*Monies spent on education allowance (£)*
Charterhouse School	0
Dulwich College	0
Eton College	0

School	*Monies spent on education allowance (£)*
Harrow School	0
Marlborough College	24,855
Rugby School	0
Westminster School	0
Winchester College	16,515
Cheltenham Ladies College	0
Roedean School	19,735
St Paul's School	0
Fettes College	32,699
Gordonstoun School	0

Payments are not made directly to the school, but are reimbursed to the employee on receipt of an invoice.

Two of the 48 employees above, returned to the UK during the 2009-10 financial year and were eligible to receive education continuity payments. Neither have children who attended any of the schools listed.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7149]

Mr O'Brien: In the Budget the Government announced plans for reducing the regulatory burdens on business, including the introduction of a one-in-one-out system for new regulations and a fundamental review of all regulation inherited from the previous Government scheduled for introduction over the coming year. These regulations will not be implemented until they have been reviewed and re-agreed by the Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is not responsible for any regulations that affect businesses.

Developing Countries: Education

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial assistance his Department has provided to each country in southwest Asia to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of increasing the number of children attending primary school in each of the last three years. [5826]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided the following amounts in support of millennium development goal (MDG) 2 in Pakistan since 2007-08.

	£
2007-08	6,549,706
2008-09	21,855,000
2009-10	26,349,553

DFID's principal contribution to meeting MDG 2 in Afghanistan is made through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). The ARTF is managed by the World Bank and reimburses proven expenditures on Government operating costs. Between 2007-08 and 2009-10, the education sector was assessed as accounting for 52% of ARTF expenditure. The Ministry of Education's published data do not distinguish between spending on primary and secondary education, but in 2008-09, primary students (Grades 1-6) comprised 76% of the primary and secondary education total (Source: Afghanistan Ministry of Education, "Education Summary Report 2008/09"). On that basis, the UK's ARTF contribution to primary education can be notionally assessed as set out in the following table.

	£ million
2007-08	21.7
2008-09	23.7
2009-10	23.7

Developing Countries: Females

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to remove barriers to education for girls in countries affected by conflict, with particular reference to girl mothers pregnant as a result of abduction or rape. [11926]

Mr O'Brien: As laid out in "The Coalition: our programme for government", the Department for International Development (DFID) will prioritise increasing access to basic services, such as health and education, for the world's poorest people, including a particular focus on the rights of women and girls.

The Secretary of State has recently initiated a review of DFID's aid programmes, including support for health and education, to ensure we achieve value for money and accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals. This includes a review of our emergency response programme, which will look at the provision of support across sectors in the immediate aftermath of conflict or natural disaster.

With over half of primary aged children not enrolled in school living in fragile states—a total of 42 million children out of an estimated 72 million worldwide—we recognise the need to promote education in fragile and conflict-affected states and to address the specific needs of women affected by violence.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure fair access to health systems through its aid programme frameworks in developing countries. [10961]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) gives high priority to ensuring that the benefits of health services are distributed equitably when it invests in health systems in developing countries. In addition to increasing the quality and supply of services, DFID works closely with Governments and other partners to make sure that these services reach the poor and vulnerable. This requires giving special attention to removing the barriers that prevent those most in need from accessing the care they require.

The Secretary of State has recently commissioned a review of DFID's aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. This will include DFID support to the health sector.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 418W, on developing countries: HIV infection, if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the HIV awareness programmes for young people; and if he will make a statement. [10996]

Mr O'Brien: HIV awareness programmes are having a positive effect. A recent study by UNAIDS found that young people are adopting safer sexual behaviours. HIV prevalence among young people has declined by more than 25% in 15 of the 21 countries most affected by AIDS. These declines are largely due to a fall in new HIV infections among young people.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing to the decline in infection rates. For example, in South Africa, prevention programmes funded by a number of partners, including DFID, have helped contribute towards a 60% decline in new infections among 15 to 24-year-olds.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 418W, on developing countries: HIV infection, (1) when he expects the report of his Department's review to be published; [11038]

(2) what progress has been made on the review of his Department's aid programme; and what guidance his Department uses in ensuring the effectiveness of projects funded under that programme. [11039]

Mr O'Brien: Programmes funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) are reviewed annually against agreed performance indicators and targets to ensure progress and assess impact and effectiveness.

DFID aims to publish conclusions from both the Bilateral Aid Review and the Multilateral Aid Review in the first part of 2011.

Developing Countries: Human Trafficking

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take towards eradicating the use of child labour in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [10617]

Mr O'Brien: Child labour is unacceptable and the Government are committed to tackling it. Investment in primary and lower secondary education reduces child labour rates. That is why the Department for International Development (DFID) is working towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) two and three on education and gender equality, and to securing strong outcomes at the MDGs summit in September.

The UK Government also strongly support the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) which challenges poor labour standards around the world, including child labour, and drives practical measures to improve them. DFID will continue to encourage British businesses to sign up to the initiative and to follow the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which set out good corporate behaviour.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what disaggregated data his Department collects on the outcomes of maternal health programmes funded by his Department for *(a)* all populations and *(b)* indigenous and other cultural minority populations in each developing country so supported; and if he will make a statement. [10962]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses an annual review process to measure results towards achieving programme objectives in each of its maternal and newborn health programmes. Where reaching a marginalised population is an integral part of the programme, the monitoring process will track this.

EC Aid

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries are the top 10 recipients of EU development aid; how much aid was given to each in the last year for which figures are available; and what the average annual income was in each country in that year. [10660]

Mr O'Brien: The top 10 recipients of EU aid in 2009, annual commitments per country and the average annual income for each country are provided in the following table. Figures for actual disbursement of EU aid fluctuate each year. This expenditure is managed by the European Commission.

Top 10 recipients of EU aid	*Commitments (€ million)*	*Per capital GDP (€)*
Turkey	533.26	7785
Tanzania	418.60	390
Democratic Republic of the Congo	417.60	140
Occupied Palestinian Territory	399.78	1114
Haiti	299.3	557
Afghanistan	269.83	362
Kosovo	219.50	1488
Kenya	207.98	612
Pakistan	200.19	704

Sources:

Annual Report 2010 on the European Community's Development and External Assistance Policies and their Implementation in 2009, June 2010 and UN Indicators on Income and Economic Activity, June 2010

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6882]

Mr O'Brien: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

International Assistance

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Deputy Prime Minister's objectives are in attending the forthcoming UN summit on the Millennium Development Goals; and if he will make a statement. [11081]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government aim to reach international agreement on an action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, as well as securing additional commitments, from both developed and developing countries, on the most off-track MDGs such as maternal and child health and malaria, and an accountability mechanism to monitor progress.

Mozambique: Overseas Aid

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for future budgetary support to the Government of Mozambique. [10814]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State has recently commissioned a review of the Department for international Development's (DFID's) bilateral aid programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Future budgetary support to the Government of Mozambique will be determined as part of this review.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of direct budget support given to Mozambique by his Department. [10815]

Mr O'Brien: Department for International Development (DFID) budget support has enabled the Government of Mozambique to increase expenditure on agriculture, education, water and sanitation, social protection and health. In 2008 this support allowed more than 105,000 children to go to primary school, including 13,200 new entrants; ensured 13,430 infants were immunised against measles; paid for 11,882 births attended by a skilled health worker; provided 239,796 people with safe water; and helped connect 13,519 people to the national grid.

The Secretary of State has recently commissioned a review of DFID's bilateral aid programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. DFID's bilateral programme in Mozambique will be reviewed under this process.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the proportion of the budgeted expenditure of the Government of Mozambique attributable to contributions from his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [10816]

Mr O'Brien: Using an average over the last three years (2007 to 2009), the Department for International Development estimates that 2.2% of the Government of Mozambique's annual budget is General Budget Support from DFID. Our total contribution to the Government of Mozambique's annual budget, including funding provided directly to sectors such as health and education, is approximately 3.7%.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will assess the effect of his Department's direct budget support to the Government of Mozambique on the level of that Government's expenditure on *(a)* arms and *(b)* defence. [10880]

Mr O'Brien: The average allocation to spending on defence and arms in Mozambique over the last three years was 3.1% of the budget. Of this, the Department for International Development (DFID) estimates arms expenditure to be less than 10% or 0.31% of the budget. Significant expenditures under the Government of Mozambique's defence budget include strengthening Mozambique's extensive borders, and contributing to de-mining as the country aims to be free of land mines by 2014.

Donors monitor closely the overall proportion of funding allocated to poverty reduction and raise any concerns about the balance of allocations in dialogue with the Government on budget support. The proportion of Government spending going to pro-poor sectors is above the target agreed with the previous UK Government.

The Secretary of State has recently commissioned a review of DFID's bilateral aid programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. DFID's bilateral programme in Mozambique will be review under this process.

NGOs: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget will be spent on funding UK non-governmental organisations in 2010-11; and how he expects such spending to change *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a proportion of his Department's budget in each of the next three years. [10492]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We are unable to provide details of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) spend through UK non-government organisations in 2010-11 at this stage. DFID reports these figures on an annual basis in Statistics in International Development in accordance with the National Statistics Code of Practice.

Decisions about the amount of funding for UK non-governmental organisations in future years will be taken in the context of the on-going Government-wide spending review.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what decisions he has taken on Partnership Programme Agreement (PPA) funding for UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from April 2011 in relation to the *(a)* timetable for NGOs to bid for funding and for his Department to assess the bids and announce their decisions, *(b)* number of NGOs to be funded, *(c)* budget for PPA funding in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) each of the following two years and *(d)* process for consulting NGOs on these matters before they are invited to bid for funding; and if he will make a statement on the Government's policy and priorities for PPA funding. [10493]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to providing support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who share our aims and objectives and can measure the impact of their work to show greater effectiveness, results and value for money.

No decisions have yet been taken on the future of the Partnership Programme Arrangement's (PPA's) but I hope to announce details in the near future.

Overseas Aid: HIV Infection

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on each type of aid in relation to activities connected with HIV and AIDS in each year since 2005-06. [10959]

Mr O'Brien: Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral and multilateral expenditure on HIV and AIDS activities in each year since 2005-06 are provided as follows.

£ million

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
DFID bilateral expenditure directly HIV and AIDS	130.9	128.7	134.2	158.0	146.3
DFID expenditure on HIV and AIDS through core contributions to multilateral organisations	75.5	100.5	111.4	79.2	144.1

As laid out in the coalition programme, the Government are committed to restricting the spread of major diseases like HIV and AIDS. Details of future support to HIV and AIDS related programmes will be determined in light of the ongoing aid reviews.

St Helena: Airports

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent representations he has received on the construction of an airport in St Helena; [11737]

(2) whether he has received recent representations on the construction of an airport in St Helena; [11736]

(3) what recent representations he has received on the construction of an airport in St Helena. [11738]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have received a small number of letters and parliamentary questions about the building of an airport in St Helena.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Overseas Loans

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS, on the Turks and Caicos Islands, what the total cost to the public purse will be of his temporary package of financial support for the Turks and Caicos Islands. [11857]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We intend the temporary package of financial support to the Turks and Caicos Islands to be at or near zero cost to Her Majesty's Government over the medium term.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS, on the Turks and Caicos Islands, what conditions have been set for his proposed loan to the Turks and Caicos Islands. [11858]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government have agreed that in response to a short-term loan of up to £10 million to the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG):

1. TCIG will set and deliver an ambitious and sustainable plan with the objective of balancing the TCIG budget at the earliest possible opportunity, and in any case, within three years; and that TCIG will strengthen its capacity to manage its public finances.

2. The UK Government accepts no legal liability for borrowing for the planned airport runway extension in TCI.

3. TCIG will provide detailed and frequent financial information to the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

UN

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what priorities he has set for the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly in September 2010, with particular reference to Millennium Development Goal *(a)* 4, on child health, *(b)* 5 on maternal health, and *(c)* 6 on combating HIV/AIDS. [10863]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government remain determined to use events such as the UN General Assembly meeting in September to urge all countries to sign up to ambitious outcome targets to drive progress towards the attainment of the millennium development goals (MDGs).

Maternal health is a major priority for the coalition Government and is personally championed by the Prime Minister. At the September meeting, we will be supporting the UN Secretary-General's Joint Action Plan to improve the health of women and children. The plan aims to accelerate progress on all three of the health MDGs (4, 5 and 6), as well as MDG 3, to promote gender equality and empower women, and MDG 1, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, through efforts to reduce malnutrition.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to inform Parliament of the outcomes of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly in September 2010. [10864]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I will place a copy of the outcome document from the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly in the House Library and I will update Parliament of the outcomes secured for achieving the millennium development goals by 2015.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which decisions taken by local authorities under legislation relating to national heritage require his consent before taking effect. [10777]

John Penrose: The following decisions taken by local authorities in relation to national heritage have been identified as requiring the consent, approval, confirmation or prior consultation of the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport. The following table is the result of a thorough legislative trawl, but in the interests of the reasonable use of resources and a timely response, it may not be exhaustive and does not refer to decisions relating to national heritage for which the consent of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is required.

Provision	*Legislation*
Acquisition by a local authority by agreement	
An authority may acquire by agreement any land that is necessary for preserving a building acquired under s52 of P(LBCA)A 1990 or necessary for preserving amenities or for affording access to it or for its control or management. In this case, unlike the acquisition of the building itself, the authority must (in England) obtain the confirmation of the SoS.	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ("P(LBCA)A 1990") s52(1)(b)
Confirmation of compulsory acquisition of listed building in need of repair	
Local authorities must submit draft compulsory purchase orders to the SoS for confirmation.	P(LBCA)A1990 s47(2)
Acquisition of ancient monuments	
A local authority may only dispose of an ancient monument situated in England which it owns and which has been the subject of a compulsory purchase order after consulting with the SoS.	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 ("AMAAA 1979") s30(2)
Guardianship of ancient momuments	
With the consent of the SoS (after consultation with EH in relation to a monument in England) a local authority may be designated the guardian of an ancient monument.	AMAAA 1979 s12(1)
Compulsory purchase under the Planning Act	
Local authorities do not have powers under the AMAAA 1979 to compulsory purchase ancient monuments but they could do so under the TCPA 1990 with consent of SoS.	Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ("TCPA 1990") s226(1)(1A)
Urgent works to preserve unoccupied buildings in conservation areas	
Local authorities can undertake urgent works to unlisted buildings in conservation areas only once a direction has been made (at their request) by SoS directing that section 54 (re urgent works to listed buildings) shall apply to that unlisted building as it applies to listed buildings - this could be characterised as a form of consent/approval.	P(LBCA)A 1990 s.76

Departmental Cars

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on car hire in each year since 1997. [11420]

John Penrose: The amount spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2005-06	13,947.79
2006-07	16,094.75
2007-08	17,054.99
2008-09	10,823.38
2009-10	4,836.70

Unfortunately we are unable to provide data for the years prior to 2005 as this information is not held on our financial system.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an estimate of the monetary value of the contracts between his Department and private sector companies which will be cancelled under his Department's planned spending reductions. [10173]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: To date, no contracts have been cancelled that relate to the current year. The cancellation of contracts in later years will depend on the outcome of the spending review.

Departmental Sponsorship

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsorship of and *(b)* attendance at awards ceremonies in each year since 1997. [11183]

John Penrose: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department and to obtain it, would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Taxis

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on taxis in each year since 1997. [11324]

John Penrose: The total expenditure incurred by the Department on taxis since 1998-99, the earliest year for which information is readily available, is set out in the table:

Financial year	*Amount £*
2009-10	18,149
2008-09	32,179
2007-08	36,359
2006-07	38,421
2005-06	21,759
2004-05	22,157
2003-04	21,878
2002-03	16,109
2001-02	20,812
2000-01	26,415
1999-2000	21,686
1998-99	15,891

Some expenditure on taxis and black cabs included under the general travel and subsistence account cannot be separately identified except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on training for its employees in each year since 1997. [7640]

John Penrose: The Department has spent the following on training in the last five financial years:

Financial year	*Spend on training (£)*
2009-10	760,080
2008-09	679,198
2007-08	856,504
2006-07	754,417
2005-06	784,431

We do not hold figures for preceding years.

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department takes to ensure that the Union flag is not displayed upside down on official occasions. [11504]

John Penrose: The DCMS has issued guidance on the correct way to fly the Union flag, which is available at the following website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/honours/7125.aspx

Gaming Machines

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on the adult gaming centre industry of the introduction of a return to a £2 stake for B3 machines and a proportionate increase in Category B3 numbers; [11533]

(2) whether his Department plans to introduce *(a)* a return of the £2 stake to B3 gaming machines and *(b)* a proportionate increase in numbers of B3 machines. [11726]

John Penrose: On 23 June 2010, I met representatives of the British Amusement Catering Trades Association (BACTA) to discuss a range of issues affecting the gaming machine industry. This included the case for increasing the stake for category B3 machines to £2 and the proportion of category B3 machines in each establishment as a means of helping the adult gaming centre industry to remain competitive. I am now considering these matters in the context of the public protection objectives of the Gambling Act 2005.

I hope to make an announcement shortly.

Libraries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on public libraries in each year since 1997. [8800]

Mr Vaizey: The Department provides grant in aid funding to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), which they use to develop and support museum, library and archive services. The Department does not retain figures from 1997, but the total funding allocated to the MLA from 2002-03, excluding funding for Renaissance but including libraries, is outlined in the table:

	Grant in aid (£ million)[1]
2002-03	14.519
2003-04	13.063
2004-05	13.063
2005-06	13.063
2006-07	17.331
2007-08	16.471
2008-09	15.971
2009-10	14.971
2010-11	13.063

[1] Excluding funding for the Renaissance museum project.

National Lottery: Blaenau Gwent

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Big Lottery funding was awarded to the community and voluntary sector in Blaenau Gwent constituency in 2009-10. [11828]

John Penrose: In 2009-10, the Big Lottery Fund made grants totalling £345,066 to the Blaenau Gwent constituency. Of this, 98.38% went to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations and 1.62% to non-VCS organisations.

National Lottery: Grants

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has carried out an equality impact assessment on his proposed changes to the distribution of lottery funds. [11930]

John Penrose: The consultation we are running until 21 August, which is on the Departments' website at:

http://www.dcms.gov.uk/consultations/default.aspx

includes a draft impact assessment and specifically asks whether consultees believe, or can provide evidence of, any adverse or positive impacts on particular groups from the change. We are not currently aware of any evidence that suggests there will be adverse impacts but the consultation responses will inform a full equality impact assessment.

National Lottery: Public Participation

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what account he is taking of the views of those who purchase lottery tickets for the National Lottery in his review of the allocation of proceeds from the National Lottery. [11915]

John Penrose: Lottery distributors are already working together to identify best practice and to develop options for increasing public involvement in their decisions about lottery funding.

A public consultation on our proposed changes to Lottery shares is on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcms.gov.uk/consultations/default.aspx

I hope that lottery players, along with all of those who are interested in the lottery, will send their views to

mailto:lottery@culture.gsi.gov.uk

TRANSPORT

Air Traffic Systems

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the privately-owned air traffic systems of other EU member states. [11742]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport receives the reports produced by the independent Performance Review Commission of Eurocontrol, the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation, which benchmarks the performance of all en-route air traffic service providers across Europe.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what specific safety criteria and other conditions any organisation seeking to purchase the Government's share of National Air Traffic Services will be required to meet. [11743]

Mrs Villiers: No decision on the sale of NATS has been made, and the specific requirements for any potential purchaser of the Government's shareholding of NATS have yet to be determined. Should a sale of some or all of the Government's shareholding proceed, safety oversight measures would continue to apply in the same way they do currently.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the potential safety implications of the sale of the Government's share of National Air Traffic Services to a private company. [11744]

Mrs Villiers: The Government's overriding priority is that safety should not be compromised and there is no intention to amend the existing robust statutory safety oversight arrangements for NATS.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms will be in place to ensure the continued safety of *(a)* those working in the aviation industry and *(b)* passengers in circumstances in which the Government sells its share in National Air Traffic Services to a private company. [11745]

Mrs Villiers: If a decision is made by the Government to sell some or all of its shareholding of NATS, the existing statutory arrangements for the safety oversight of NATS would remain as they are at present.

Association of Train Operating Companies

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will designate National Rail as a public company. [8552]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have a commitment to reform Network Rail and to make it more accountable to its customers and passengers. The Value for Money Study, chaired by Sir Roy McNulty, is currently examining the structures and incentives of the rail industry to see how best to enable this. No decisions on specific measures have yet been made.

Aviation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the case for additional airport capacity in England; [4973]

(2) what his policy is on airport expansion outside the South East; [4987]

(3) whether he intends to publish a national policy statement on aviation. [5065]

Mrs Villiers: Individual proposals for airport expansion need to be judged on their merits, taking into account relevant environmental considerations. We have made clear, however, that we oppose new runways at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, on the grounds that the adverse impacts of such development would be unacceptable.

On the matter of a national policy statement, the Government will issue a more detailed statement later in the summer.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage agreement at global level on reducing aviation emissions. [8972]

Mrs Villiers: The UK actively participates in all discussions on climate change and aviation in international forums, and particularly in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Charge and in the aviation-specific UN body, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

While progress in these forums has been slow, there has been some success. For example in October 2009 agreement was reached in the ICAO on a global, annual average fuel efficiency improvement of 2% per annum until 2020 and on an aspirational global fuel efficiency improvement of 2% per annum to 2050. In addition, earlier this year ICAO states agreed that the organisation should work on developing a CO_2 standard for new aircraft.

The steps that have been taken to date by the ICAO do not go far enough in delivering a sustainable global aviation industry and the UK will continue to push for an ambitious, global approach to reducing emissions from international aviation.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change in its report, 'Meeting the UK aviation target-options for reducing emissions to 2050', December 2009. [11991]

Mrs Villiers: We are committed to reducing emissions from transport and ensuring the right framework is in place for aviation to contribute to the UK's climate stabilisation goals. Making clear our opposition to new runways at Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick is an important element to that. The Committee on Climate Change's December report was an important contribution to the evidence base, and we will consider the detail of policy and announce our conclusions on the best way to achieve our aims in due course.

Biofuels

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department (1) plans to publish a National Action Plan for meeting EU biofuel targets; [11311]

(2) plans to bring forward mechanisms in support for advanced or second generation biofuels and electric-powered vehicles to meet the requirements of EU Directive 98/70/EC; [11312]

(3) will make a decision on bringing forward legislation on amending the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation scheme to meet the requirements of EU Directive 98/70/EC on environmental quality standards for fuel. [11313]

Norman Baker: We are currently working towards implementation of the EU Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC (RED), which requires member states to source 10% transport energy from renewables by 2020. This target was agreed in 2009 and is part of a wider requirement to source 15% of overall energy from renewables by 2020.

Our assessment of how the RED targets could be met was published in the UK's National Renewable Action Plan in June 2010. This is available on the European Commission's Renewable Energy Transparency Platform and on the Department for Energy and Climate Change's website.

Detailed options for achieving our renewable energy in transport targets are being considered, and we will be engaging with stakeholders in due course.

On electric vehicles, the coalition agreement stated that we will mandate a national re-charging network for plug-in vehicles. We are considering a range of options for delivering this and are also reviewing future support for the purchase of low carbon vehicles. We will make a statement in due course on this.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on the provision of subsidies for production of second generation biofuels. [11317]

Norman Baker: We are currently reviewing options for implementing the EU Renewable Energy Directive and to date have not provided specific subsidies for the production of second generation biofuels.

Bus Services: Concessions

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to provide free concessionary bus travel for injured veterans. [2821]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* Many seriously injured service personnel and veterans are already eligible for the England-wide free concessionary bus travel scheme by virtue of age or disability. Furthermore, the Department for Transport's guidance on eligibility for disabled people sets out that eligibility for a concessionary bus pass may be considered automatic for injured veterans who are in receipt of war pensioner's mobility supplement, where eligibility is linked to the ability to walk. We are currently considering how to extend the scheme to include automatic eligibility for veterans in receipt of similar awards under the new armed forces compensation scheme.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for eligibility rules on concessionary bus travel in England to 2015-16. [10382]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The coalition Government have not announced any plans to change the existing eligibility rules on concessionary bus travel in England to 2015-16.

The Government are considering a possible expansion to the scheme to include automatic eligibility for seriously injured veterans and service personnel who are in receipt of a guaranteed income payment under the new Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and who fall within the categories of disability set out in the Transport Act 2000.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to change the age of eligibility for concessionary bus travel in the fiscal period 2011-12 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [10389]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 22 July 2010]*: The coalition Government have not announced any plans to change the age of eligibility for concessionary bus travel in England to 2015-16, beyond those announced by the previous Administration.

Bus Services: Wigan

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which bus services in Wigan constituency received funding from the Bus Service Operators Grant in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [11977]

Norman Baker: All bus operators operating local bus services in Wigan are eligible to claim Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG), provided they meet the eligibility criteria set out in regulations. This includes, in the Wigan area:

Arriva
Finch Coaches
First Manchester
Olympia Travel UK Ltd
South Lancs Travel
Stagecoach
Wigan and District Community Transport
Wigan Buses Ltd
Wigan council.

We do not, however, hold information on BSOG payments by individual bus services.

Carbon Dioxide

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from *(a)* biomass-to-liquid biofuels, *(b)* cellulosic ethanol biofuels and *(c)* biofuels from algae, straw, grass and wood. [11390]

Norman Baker: To date, no fuels derived from such sources have been supplied for commercial use in the UK. Therefore, no detailed assessment has yet been made of the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) associated with these production pathways. We remain interested in emerging biofuels that have the potential to reduce green house gas emissions.

Crossrail Line and London Underground

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* discussions, *(b)* meetings and *(c)* exchanges of correspondence he has had with the Mayor of London on (i) Crossrail and (ii) funding for the London Underground network since his appointment. [10929]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers and officials regularly discuss and correspond with the Mayor of London and Transport for London officials on a variety of London transport issues, including Crossrail and funding for the London Underground network.

Cycling: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he intends to take to promote cycling in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [11264]

Norman Baker: The Government made a clear commitment to support cycling in the coalition agreement. In 2010-11, we are funding two cycle towns in the West Midlands (Shrewsbury and Stoke-on-Trent) as well as providing £888,000 to support cycle training for children across the West Midlands, including Coventry. This is in addition to funding provided to West Midlands authorities through the local transport plan process. Financial support for cycling in future years will be considered as part of the spending review.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of ceasing to levy the tolls at the Dartford-Thurrock crossing between 2100 on Friday *(a)* 10 September and 0500 on Monday 13 September and *(b)* 1 October and 0500 on Monday 4 October 2010 for the purpose of managing additional traffic arising from the closure of the Blackwall tunnel. [11236]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency are liaising closely with Transport for London to ensure effective arrangements are in place for managing additional traffic movements over the Dartford Crossing due to closure of the Blackwall tunnel.

Any solution will need to take account of the potential benefits and impacts, and the need to maintain the safe operation of the Crossing for the millions of its users.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9243]

Norman Baker: In general, the Department for Transport does not hold information on the time taken by contractors it employs to pay sub-contractors. Although the Highways Agency, for instance, has undertaken some limited sampling of supplier performance in relation to the prompt payment of sub-contractors, it does not have any full, routine, verified system for monitoring supplier performance in this area.

We are taking the following steps to promote the prompt payment of sub-contractors:

Our guidance to contract managers is being updated to include a requirement to monitor payment performance as part of the contract management process;

The current version of the Department's General Conditions of Contract contains a clause requiring its contractors, where they enter into a sub-contract for the purpose of performing their obligations under the contract with the Department, to ensure that a provision is included in the sub-contract to pay the sub-contractor within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice; and

Our supplier portal is being updated to give sub-contractors information about how to report non-compliance to the Office of Government Commerce's supplier feedback process.

We remain committed to paying invoices within five working days and encouraging our suppliers to ensure that the benefits are felt by all in the supply chain.

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11164]

Norman Baker: The 10-day target has been replaced with a five-day target, and information is recorded on this basis.

The percentage of invoices paid within five days of receipt for the Department and its agencies for the past three months is as follows:

Percentage paid within five working days

	April 2010	*May 2010*	*June 2010*
Central Department	76.5	89.2	89.2
Driving Standards	64.9	85.5	85.3
Driver and Vehicle Licensing	61.8	84.6	84.1
Highways	55.9	58.9	64.0
Maritime and Coastguard	81.1	95.2	93.9
Vehicle Certification	n/a	94.7	89.4
Vehicle and Operator Services	78.8	82.2	67.9
Government Car and Despatch	43.7	86.3	85.8
Total	64.8	78.1	77.6

The departmental commercial terms generally specify that payment will be made within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice.

The percentage of invoices paid within 30 days of receipt for the Department and its agencies for the past three months is as follows:

Percentage paid within 30 working days

	April 2010	*May 2010*	*June 2010*
Central Department	100.0	99.7	99.8
Driving Standards	99.8	99.8	99.7
Driver and Vehicle Licensing	99.8	99.8	99.7
Highways	99.3	98.8	98.9
Maritime and Coastguard	99.9	99.9	99.8
Vehicle Certification	99.8	99.6	99.8
Vehicle and Operator Services	99.9	100.0	99.9
Government Car and Despatch	99.5	99.1	99.6
Total	99.7	99.5	99.5

We are unable to provide information separately for small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many separate buildings his Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* elsewhere in the UK. [6893]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport occupies the following headquarter buildings in *(a)* London and *(b)* elsewhere in the UK:

(a) Great Minster House, 55 Victoria Street, Southside, 123 Buckingham Palace Road and 46 Ponton Road.

(b) The Axis Building (Nottingham), Morriston (Swansea), Spring Place (Southampton), Eastgate Office Centre and Berkeley House (Bristol).

Data on the wider buildings occupied in part by the Department for Transport are not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hours of training on using *(a)* laptop computers *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* Blackberrys was provided to staff of his Department and its agencies in the last three financial years; and at what cost such training was provided. [11900]

Norman Baker: The information is as follows:

(a) ICT training in the central Department is split into two parts:

(i) General staff training in the use of equipment for either desktop or laptop computers is provided as part of the initial induction. These data exclude software training.

	Hours	*Cost (£)*
2007-08	391.5	58,692
2008-09	370.5	51,976
2009-10	186	31,659
2010-11 (to date),	24	6,228

(ii) Separate training is also provided for staff working remotely on laptops. Formalised external training began in October 2009.

	Hours	*Cost (£)*
2009-10 (from October)	61	5,709
2010-11 (to date)	19	109

(b) No formal training is provided for staff for use of official mobile telephones.

(c) Information on staff training in the use of BlackBerrys is as follows:

	Hours	Cost (£)
2007-08	No central training offered	—
2008-09	157	17,520
2009-10	180	15,051
2010-11 (to date)	39	3,114

None of the Department's seven executive agencies either provide formal training or separately record the cost of this.

Departmental Equal Opportunities

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5922]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has spent the following amounts:

(a) Total (including staff costs) in promoting diversity, and fulfilling statutory obligations, in each of the last three financial years

	£
2007-08	496,112
2008-09	705,833
2009-10	1,617,434

Note:
With estimated spend of £500,000 planned in 2010-11.

(b) Staff costs on promoting equality and diversity and faith in each of the last three financial years

	£
2007-08	384,965
2008-09	406,221
2009-10	442,062

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7443]

Norman Baker: Expenditure by the Department for Transport on hospitality in the four most recent years was as follows:

	£
2006-07	648,657
2007-08	737,971
2008-09	694,991
2009-10	647,623

Due to a major restructuring of accounting records, expenditure in years prior to 2006-07 cannot be provided on a comparable basis without incurring disproportionate costs.

A recent departmental exercise to identify discretionary spending savings in 2010-11 showed that we are planning to spend £458,000—£159,000 less than previously estimated.

The Department adheres to the principles on the management of Public Money as set out in HM Treasury's Handbook on Regularity and Propriety and has strict rules and cost limits on such expenditure, which in the main consists of refreshments at meetings with external stakeholders.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6435]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has spent £550 plus VAT on official ministerial photographs since the formation of the new Government. The Secretary of State has subsequently directed that future ministerial photographs will be taken by staff of the Department.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Network Rail on the programme areas to be affected by planned reductions in his Department's budget. [11031]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers and officials communicate regularly with Network Rail. As part of the Government's in-year efficiency savings announced on 24 May, Network Rail has agreed to pay the Department £100 million during 2010-11. The cancellation of the programme of station enhancements announced in November 2009 will save £50 million. The detail of where further savings are to be made will be decided by Network Rail.

Departmental Regulations

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7140]

Norman Baker: In the Budget the Government announced plans for reducing the regulatory burdens on business, including the introduction of a one-in-one-out system for new regulations and a fundamental review of all regulation inherited from the previous Government scheduled for introduction over the coming year. These regulations will not be implemented until they have been reviewed and re-agreed by the Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee.

As part of a wider review of employment law, the Department will also be reviewing laws within relevant policy areas to "ensure they maximise flexibility for both parties while protecting fairness and providing the competitive environment required for enterprise to thrive".

The Your Freedom website launched by the Deputy Prime Minister on 1 July 2010, will also give members of the public the opportunity to suggest existing regulations for removal, in order to reduce the burden on business.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7373]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and includes the Central Department, seven Executive Agencies and a Shared Service Centre. The Department also sponsors a number of non-departmental public bodies.

The figures provided (in the table below) for the costs of protective security for this Department, its Agencies and sponsored bodies are from those records available centrally.

They do not include costs where records are not available centrally or where such records no longer exist. Central records are not to be taken as representative of total costs as there are varying accounting procedures in place across the Department and its Agencies for elements of spend attributed to security costs.

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-5*	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DfT(c)	N/A	N/A.	N/A	N/A	464,440	659,781	765,023	1,553,983	1,513,937	1,799,993
Agencies and NDPB total	35,874	360,897	1,606,925	2,419,559	2,521,915	2,641,177	2,691,296	3,202,453	4,121,579	4,118,958

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May 2010 and *(b)* June 2010. [8232]

Norman Baker: As set out in the Ministerial Code each Department will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 508W.

Driving: Licensing

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK driving licences were reported stolen in each county in each year since 1997. [11045]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not record the number of driving licences reported as stolen, but it does record the number of duplicate driving licences issued due to the licence being reported as lost/stolen/defaced. The following table provides figures for each financial year from 1997. Figures are not available by county and are for GB as a whole.

1997-98	753,091
1998-99	660,995
1999-2000	467,181
2000-01	510,254
2001-02	584,489
2002-03	699,528
2003-04	811,670
2004-05	856,258
2005-06	937,634
2006-07	1,029,527
2007-08	1,144,273
2008-09	1,162,444
2009-10	1,146,685

East Coast Main Line: Travel

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he made of the monetary value of free first class rail travel undertaken by staff of East Coast Main Line in the last 12 months; and what estimate he made of the number of such staff who undertook such travel in that period. [11785]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State has made no estimate of the monetary value of free first class travel undertaken by East Coast Main Line staff. Staff travel arrangements, both on and off duty, are the responsibility of the employing train operating company. East Coast Main Line has inherited the employment contracts and policies of National Express East Coast, which provide for staff travel on the usual industry terms.

Electric Vehicles

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of ending the electric vehicle consumer incentive on *(a)* jobs, *(b)* the car manufacturing industry, *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(d)* levels of air pollution; [11626]

(2) when he expects to announce his decision on the future of the electric vehicle consumer incentive scheme. [11627]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is currently considering in detail the provision of direct support for purchases of low-carbon vehicles, including electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, and will make a statement as soon as possible.

The Secretary of State is aware that supporting green vehicle technology can help the UK meet its environmental obligations and create high-tech low carbon jobs in the UK. The uptake of ultra-low carbon technology will be necessary to meet our national carbon target in the long term and to realise local air quality benefits.

The recent announcement to support Green Buses and the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to mandate a national charging infrastructure illustrates the Government's commitment to a market for ultra-low carbon vehicles.

Felixstowe-Nuneaton Railway Line

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on his Department's funding for the Felixstowe-Nuneaton freight line; and if he will make a statement. [10869]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has received various stakeholder representations on the funding of the rail links between the UK's major ports and cities, including the route from Felixstowe to Nuneaton on the West Coast Main Line. The upgrade of the Felixstowe-Nuneaton line to facilitate the passage of larger and longer freight trains is part of the £200 million Strategic Freight Network investment programme, funded by the Department for the five years to March 2014. All Government expenditure is under review with decisions to be made in the comprehensive spending review, and the deficit reduction programme takes precedence. However we recognise the importance of this freight infrastructure investment and the benefits it provides.

Hotels

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on hotel bills for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years; and which hotels were used in each case. [11829]

Norman Baker: Hotel costs for the Department for Transport (c) and four of its agencies are contained in the following table. The information does not differentiate between Ministers and officials. The figures for the Department for Transport (c), Driving Standards Agency and Highways Agency—represent bookings through central contracts only.

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DfT(c)	404,388	485,198	303,730
DSA	17,776	15,408	18,408
DVLA	856,268	832,256	766,480
MCA	716,601	765,379	841,417
HA	910,264	811,723	531,355

The remaining three agencies could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

A list of the hotels used is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Lobbying

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will issue guidance to his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies on the retention and use of lobbying companies for the provision of lobbying and support services to campaign for increased funding. [9458]

Norman Baker: Her Majesty's Treasury issued guidance to all Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in March 2010, in the form of a document entitled "Reforming Arm's Length Bodies".

Rule 4 and para 3.1.1. of this document states that

> "ALBs must not use public funds to employ external public affairs or other consultants to lobby Parliament or Government with the principle aim of altering government policy or to obtain increased funding".

London Underground: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has had recent discussions with Transport for London on Government funding for options for the southward extension of the Bakerloo line; [10367]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Transport for London on Government funding for proposals for extensions to the London Underground network. [10368]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers and officials hold regular discussions with Transport for London and the Mayor on a variety of issues, but no recent discussions have taken place focusing specifically on extensions to the London Underground network.

Luton Station

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the development of Luton rail station; how much his Department has allocated to Luton for the period of the 2010 Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [10953]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is continuing to work with local partners to assess what improvements can be delivered at Luton station following the decision to cut the £50 million that had been provisionally allocated to improving the ten priority stations identified in the Station Champions' "Better Rail Stations" report.

In the meantime, as part of the Thameslink programme, £2.1 million is being spent on work to extend the platforms at Luton station and this is scheduled to be completed by end-October 2010. Some £250,000 from the Department's Access for All Small Schemes Fund has also been allocated to improve access at Luton via the footbridge by end-March 2011.

Merchant Shipping

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to his letter to me of 8 July 2010, from which interested parties he has received representations on the effect of the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010; if he will place in the Library a copy of each such representation; and if he will make a statement. [8046]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* I have received three letters containing representations from the hon. Members for Truro and Falmouth (Sarah Newton), Waveney (Peter Aldous), and Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross (John Thurso). Copies of these representations have been deposited in the Library. I have also received a number of oral representations including from the British Ports Association and the Chamber of Shipping.

Two Early Day Motions on the subject of the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations have been tabled. Details of the early-day motions, and the hon. Members associated with them, are available on:

http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMList.aspx

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from motoring; and if he will make a statement. [10312]

Norman Baker: We will implement a full programme of measures to ensure that the transport sector contributes to both economic growth and the achievement of the Government's climate change targets. We are considering a wide range of options to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from road transport, including how best to support low carbon vehicles, sustainable biofuels, alternatives to travel and modal shift to other forms of transport. The speed of implementation of any measures that have a cost to the public finances will depend, however, on decisions to be made in the comprehensive spending review.

The coalition agreement stated that we will mandate a national recharging network for plug-in vehicles, and we are considering a range of options for delivering this. We are also reviewing future support for the purchase of ultra-low carbon vehicles, and we will make a statement on this in due course.

Motorways: England

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with his Welsh Assembly Government counterpart the improvement of motorway links between England and Wales. [11748]

Mike Penning: I would be happy to discuss any transport issues with my Welsh counterparts. However, any improvements could only be considered once the spending review is finished, and the wider fiscal context is clear.

National Express

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to ensure that the National Express Group does not operate in the rail industry after March 2011. [R] [9583]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Department for Transport will consider any application for a franchise. Such consideration takes account of bidders' previous experience and performance of operating passenger franchises and relevant contracts. Each bid is judged objectively and impartially.

Public Transport: Disability

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to improve the provision of public transport for physically disabled people *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the East Midlands. [11580]

Norman Baker: The Department is committed to ensuring that public transport works for everyone, including disabled people.

By law, all newly built or refurbished public transport vehicles must be accessible to disabled people, including wheelchair users. Over a third of all trains are already accessible, as is half the bus fleet. Deadlines have been set for when all trains, buses and coaches must be accessible. These range between 2015 and 2020.

Free off-peak local bus travel throughout England has given the opportunity for greater freedom and independence to around 11 million older and disabled people.

Transport operators also have a legal duty to consider the needs of disabled people when publishing service information and providing booking and other facilities. Disability legislation also covers infrastructure, such as bus and railway stations.

In addition, the Department's 'Access for All' programme aims to deliver a step-free accessible route to and between platforms at 148 stations across the network by 2015. In the East Midlands, work has been completed at Sleaford, work is undergoing at Boston, and work is at the design stage at Long Eaton, Loughborough and Wellingborough. Under the Access for All Small Schemes fund, the Department has been able to allocate over £300,000 to stations in the East Midlands for smaller scheme improvements reflecting local needs.

We are also seeking to ensure that those who travel have the confidence and basic skills to do so; that transport staff have the appropriate training to help people; and that passengers can travel in a safe environment.

Rail Services

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria will be used for taking decisions arising from his independent review of the procurement of new rolling stock on *(a)* the East Coast Main Line and *(b)* the West Coast Main Line; and if he will make a statement. [9178]

Mrs Villiers: For the East Coast Main Line, the Intercity Express Programme and any various alternatives will be assessed on standard value for money and affordability criteria.

After the delivery of the extra 106 Pendolino carriages, there is no further rolling stock procurement currently planned for the West Coast Main Line longer distance services. A procurement for new electric trains to connect Glasgow and Edinburgh with Manchester is under review as part of a re-evaluation of the High Level Output Specification schemes which forms part of the spending review process necessitated by the deficit the Government have inherited from their predecessors.

Railway Stations

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress his Department has made on implementing the recommendations in the Better Rail Stations review; [10938]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of facilities at *(a)* Luton rail station, *(b)* all category B rail stations and *(c)* all rail stations operated by First Capital Connect; [10954]

(3) what assessment he has made of the compliance of Luton rail station with the minimum station standards set out in the report of the Better Rail Stations review. [10955]

Mrs Villiers: The "Better Rail Stations" Report highlighted concerns about the state of a number of stations and noted the inconsistent level of facilities at stations. The adequacy of facilities at all stations, including Luton, was considered as part of the review and the report made a number of recommendations around consistent minimum facilities and standards at all categories of stations.

These, along with other proposals within the report, will be considered as part of our programme for reform of the railways, though the need to address the deficit may have an impact on decisions.

We propose to grant longer franchises in order to give operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want, including better stations. We are also considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

Railway Stations: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will undertake further investigation of options for a station in Brixton on the East London Line Overground extension. [11451]

Mrs Villiers: The case for a new station at Brixton High Level was assessed in 2007 by Network Rail as part of the South London Route Utilisation Strategy. The station was found to be unaffordable due to the high cost of construction.

I am not aware of any material change in circumstances that would mean that a different conclusion would be reached by a further study. Given our current spending restrictions it would not be appropriate for the Department for Transport to spend further money to investigate this issue in advance of the outcome of the spending review.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to make a decision on the South London Route Utilisation Strategy's recommendation that Wimbledon loop Thameslink trains terminate at Blackfriars from 2015. [11596]

Mrs Villiers: I anticipate that a decision on this matter will be taken some two years before the date of the timetable change, in line with normal railway industry planning time scales.

Railways

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the current economic climate on his plans for high speed rail. [11336]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 26 July 2010]*: The coalition Government has rejected further capital spending cuts as an easy, but wrong option for tackling the deficit. As the Chancellor said in his emergency Budget speech:

> "Well-judged capital spending by government can help provide the new infrastructure our economy needs to compete in the modern world".

The planned phased construction of a national high speed rail network means that it can be delivered in an affordable way. And over the long-term it is still expected that passenger demand will continue to grow strongly.

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will renew the entitlement to benefits in kind for employees of publicly-owned rail companies. [11787]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State already requires operators, through their Franchise Agreement, or in the case of publicly owned rail companies, their Service Agreement, to participate in the Rail Staff Travel Scheme. This travel scheme allows staff who possess staff travel to use it with all train operators in Britain on broadly similar terms to those which applied in 1995.

Railways: Fares

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to promote lower railway fares. [5740]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 5 July 2010]*: The Government are committed to fairness on rail fares. We hope to be able to keep the current formula for the cap on regulated fares, but we need to wait until further work has been done on the spending settlement before making a final decision on the fare formula for next year.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that future rail fare increases in the South East are proportionate to average earnings growth for regular pay for passengers in the South East. [7011]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to fairness on rail fares. The present formula provides for annual increases of RPI +3% on South Eastern franchise up to and including 2011 and RPI +1% on other franchises in the South East region. We hope to be able to keep the current formula for the cap on regulated fares, but we will need to wait until further work has been done on the spending settlement before making a final decision on the fare formula for next year.

Railways: Franchises

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 58WS, on transport: rail franchising, when he expects to respond to the consultation on the future of rail franchising; when he expects to be in a position to announce a new policy on rail franchises; and if he will make a statement. [8902]

Mrs Villiers: The 'Reforming Rail Franchising' consultation document was released on 22 July 2010 and a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library. It is available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-28/

The closing date for responses is 18 October 2010. A response to the consultation and an announcement of the Government's future plans will be made after that date.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will include in the forthcoming review of rail franchises measures to encourage more flexible fare structures for commuters who work part-time and those who work from home on certain days; and if he will make a statement. [9802]

Mrs Villiers: There are ways in which fares structures could be changed to be more flexible using the benefits of smart card technology. The revenue work streams of the rail value for money study being carried out by Sir Roy McNulty is expected to provide valuable input in the medium term.

Railways: High Speed Two

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on his proposals to link the High Speed Two rail line to Heathrow Airport. [11341]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* On 21 July Lord Mawhinney published his independent overview of high speed rail access to Heathrow. High Speed Two Ltd (HS2 Ltd) is also doing some detailed work in this area which will take more time to complete. We will therefore carefully consider Lord Mawhinney's recommendations alongside this further work by HS2 Ltd and will announce our conclusions later this year. In addition, the Department for Transport has received a range of correspondence and other representations from interested parties.

Railways: Liverpool

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the economic effects on the North West of the proposed electrification of the Liverpool-Manchester line. [11399]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has assessed electrification of the Liverpool to Manchester line, via Newton-le-Willows, as being high value for money. Electrification of the line, coupled with the introduction of electric trains, would increase train capacity and reduce passenger journey times. It would also help to cut carbon emissions and reduce the cost of running the railway.

The Government supports rail electrification. However, our priority is tackling the fiscal deficit and Ministers will consider the full range of proposed transport projects in parallel with the spending review process to ascertain what is affordable.

Railways: Manchester

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on whether peak-time train services on the Manchester-Huddersfield railway line are operating at over-capacity. [11398]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold detailed information for every station stop on individual services on the Manchester-Huddersfield railway line. However, the critical load information for peak services arriving into Manchester Piccadilly during autumn 2009 suggests that some trains on this line are operating at over-capacity.

First TransPennine Express, the train operator that provides most services on this route may be able to provide more information. First TransPennine Express can be contacted at the following address:

Customer Relations
First TransPennine Express
Freepost
ADMAIL 3878
Manchester
M1 9YB.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will provide previously planned new rolling stock for the *(a)* Manchester-Glossop and *(b)* Manchester-Huddersfield railway line. [11402]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognises the concerns around rail crowding levels on a number of routes into Manchester. However, in view of the pressure on the public finances and the priority we have placed on tackling the deficit, we are reviewing the full range of transport projects to assess them for affordability and value for money. That review includes the carriages in the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) programme which have not yet been contracted.

I recently visited Manchester to discuss this issue with local stakeholders and I have also met a delegation of MPs from affected constituencies. The outcome of these meetings will be considered as part of the re-assessment of the HLOS carriages programme. Our conclusions will be announced on completion of the Spending Review in the autumn.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on whether peak-time train services on the Manchester-Glossop railway line are operating over at capacity. [11404]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold detailed information for every station stop on individual services on the Manchester-Glossop railway line. However, the critical load information for peak services arriving into Manchester Piccadilly during autumn 2009, suggests that trains on this line are not currently operating at over-capacity.

Northern Trains, the train operator that provides these services may be able to provide more information. Northern Trains can be contacted at the following address: Northern Rail Limited, Northern House, 9 Rougier Street, York, YO1 6HZ.

Railways: Overcrowding

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of levels of overcrowding on commuter rail services into *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* Bristol, *(e)* Leeds and *(f)* Sheffield. [5533]

Mrs Villiers: Comprehensive annual assessments are made of the usage of rail commuter services for these cities (London, Birmingham, Manchester, Bristol, Leeds and Sheffield) during the autumn of each year, when commuter demand is at its most stable. The assessments will be published in due course.

Railways: Parking

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a recent estimate of the average cost to train passengers of parking in a railway station car park; and if he will make a statement. [8906]

Mrs Villiers: Parking charges at railway stations are set by train operators or other private sector providers, and are not regulated as part of franchise agreements. The Department for Transport does not hold information on the level of parking charges at individual stations or the average parking charge across the network.

Railways: Travel

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he made of the *(a)* operating cost and *(b)* public subsidy per passenger made in respect of rail travel (i) on services run by each train operating company and (ii) nationally in the last 12 months. [11786]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport does not estimate the operating cost for each train operating company. This is a matter for the individual train companies. The Secretary of State for Transport does, however, review each train operating company's actual operating costs against their budget. This takes place on a periodic basis as part of his normal review into the financial health of each train company.

Subsidy per passenger kilometre is published by the Office of Rail Regulation for all train operating companies in its National Rail Trends Yearbook. The most recent figures published are for 2008-09, and can be located on page 59 using the following link:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/YEARBOOK0809-v22.pdf

Road Traffic Offences: Fines

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to enable motorists charged under the Traffic Management Act 2004 to pay a charge and to appeal against it. [953]

Norman Baker: We have no plans to adopt the policy the hon. Member suggests. A motorist served with a penalty charge notice for parking in contravention of regulations under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 should pay the penalty charge quickly or challenge it if s/he believes that it has been served in error. This does not, of course, apply in cases where the vehicle has been immobilised and/or removed.

Road Traffic: Economic Situation

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the cost to the economy of road congestion in each region in the latest year for which figures are available. [9954]

Norman Baker: The 2006 Eddington Study estimated that, using the Department for Transport's National Transport Model, the direct costs of congestion to business could rise by £10-12 billion from 2003 to 2025 (in 2002 prices). Adding in the value of the lost time experienced by other travellers raises this figure to £23-24 billion per annum. This report is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/eddingtonstudy/researchannexes/

The following table provides estimates of the cost of congestion to business and other travellers in lost time in 2003 (in 2002 prices) in each English region.

Estimated cost of congestion by English region, 2003, at 2002 prices

Region	*£ billion*
North East	1.0
Yorks and Humber	1.7
East Midlands	0.9
Eastern England	1.2
South East	1.9
London	5.3
South West	0.7
West Midlands	1.9
North West	1.9
England total	16.5

These figures are based on the difference between the actual time taken to make a journey and the time that would be taken under theoretical 'free-flow' conditions. They do not necessarily represent the net benefit that would result from removing congestion.

Roads: Accidents

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the proposed Road Accident In-Depth Study has been cancelled; and whether he has plans for an alternative research project on the causes of road accidents. [11599]

Mike Penning: The proposed components of the Road Accident In-Depth Study (RAIDS) relating to on scene accident investigations have not been taken forward this year as it was not affordable given the difficult fiscal circumstances the Government inherited. However, a new integrated RAIDS database has recently been completed containing data from the legacy 'On the Spot' and 'Co-operative Crash Injury Study'. This database will make it easier to make better use of the very extensive data collected in recent years.

In addition, all fatal accidents are investigated by specialist police accident investigators, and DFT also make extensive use of the police STATS19 data which cover all personal injury road accidents reported to the police. STATS19 includes many items relevant to the causes of accidents, including junction details, weather conditions and the factors that police consider contributed to the accident.

Roads: Construction

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria will be used to determine which previously approved road building projects will proceed following the in-year reductions in his Department's budget. [9529]

Mike Penning: As part of the £6 billion package of savings announced in May, we announced that the start of works on some road schemes would be postponed. Final decisions on these schemes will be taken following the spending review, and will depend upon the overall level of capital spending agreed across Government.

Roads: Metals

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the annual cost to the public purse of substituting *(a)* metal and *(b)* non-metal replacements for metal items stolen from highways for scrap. [10889]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has no plans to make such an estimate. It is for each highway authority (or, in the case of utility apparatus covers, the relevant utility company) to determine the most appropriate materials to use in replacing stolen highways ironwork, bearing in mind the particular circumstances of the site in question.

Seafarers

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the European Commission on seafarers' pay differentials. [11966]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State met the European Commissioner for Transport, Siim Kallas, on 8 July 2010 and, among other things, discussed differential pay for seafarers.

Department for Transport officials have discussed seafarers' pay differentials with European Commission officials on various occasions since the Commission first raised their concerns about the UK legislation. Officials from the Department for Transport and the European Commission are next due to meet to discuss this issue on 29 July 2010 in Brussels.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to introduce legislation to enable the use of credit cards for payment for tolls on the Severn crossings. [11793]

Norman Baker: In March this year, an amendment was made to the Severn Bridges Regulations to allow card payments to be accepted at the tolls. Work has started to amend the tolling software to accept credit and debit cards, and we hope this will be resolved before the Ryder Cup begins.

Shipping: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have held with the British Chamber of Shipping on the Carter Review into seafarers' pay differentials; [11956]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have held with the European Commission on the Carter Review into seafarers' pay differentials; and whether the European Commission has expressed support for the Carter Review recommendations.; [11957]

(3) whether his Department has received any *(a)* legal advice or *(b)* guidance from the European Commission over the last five years on the Government's obligations on seafarers pay differentials. [11958]

Mike Penning: Since I published the Carter report on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 9WS, I and my officials have met representatives from all sides of the industry, including the Chamber of Shipping and trade unions, and heard first-hand their views and concerns on differential pay.

On 23 June 2010, Department for Transport officials provided European Commission officials with a copy of the Carter review into seafarers' pay. There have been no discussions between the Department for Transport and the European Commission regarding the Carter review.

The views of the European Commission and its officials on legal issues relating to seafarers' pay differentials have been set out on several occasions in the last five years in correspondence or at meetings with Department for Transport officials.

Transport for London: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish each item of correspondence between Ministers in his Department and the Mayor of London on the budget for Transport for London since his appointment. [5456]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State meets and corresponds with the Mayor regularly on London transport issues including Transport for London funding. These discussions are currently taking place in the context of the spending review and it would not be appropriate to release details.

Transport: Greater London

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each meeting he has had with the Mayor of London on transport matters since his appointment. [6897]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer given today (UIN 5456).

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 189W, on the Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA), if he will discuss the future of VOSA with the relevant trade unions before any decision on the Agency's future is taken; and whether he *(a)* has commissioned and *(b)* intends to commission any consultancy advice on the future of VOSA prior to the Comprehensive Spending Review. [12047]

Mike Penning: As is normal practice, discussions will be held with the relevant trade unions before any decisions are taken on the future of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA). No consultancy advice has been commissioned and there are no plans to commission any consultancy advice on VOSA prior to the comprehensive spending review.

Wrexham-Bidston Railway Line: Electrification

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the electrification of the Wrexham to Bidston rail line. [9944]

Mrs Villiers: The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for Arriva Trains Wales' services between Wrexham and Bidston. We continue to keep in touch with the Welsh Assembly Government and Merseytravel about options for the line.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the change in central Government expenditure on the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme attributable to the use of the consumer prices index for pension indexation in the next five years. [11058]

Mr Maude: The Government have not made a separate estimate of the change in central Government expenditure for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) relating to the announcement at Budget that the uprating of the majority of state benefits, State Second Pension and public service pensions would be moved from RPI to CPI, with effect from April 2011.

The estimated savings in annually managed expenditure for public service pension expenditure in each year of the forecast period are set out in the following table. These savings form part of the overall savings figures for benefits, tax credits and public service pensions published in line 22 of Table 2.1 in Budget 2010. These figures include savings for the PCSPS, and all other public service schemes apart from the Local Government Pension Scheme.

	£million
2011-12	330
2012-13	550
2013-14	880
2014-15	1,290

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress he has made in discussions with the Public and Commercial Services Union on changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. [11944]

Mr Maude: Discussions on changes to civil service terms and conditions are conducted with the Council of Civil Service Unions rather than with individual unions.

I wrote to Paul Noon, chairman of the Council of Civil Service Unions, on 6 July inviting the unions to begin talks on a future compensation scheme with my officials. One key area for discussion is to what extent the future scheme can provide proportionately better terms for the lower paid. I have since met the unions once and my officials have had further meetings with them.

Government Departments: Travel

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish the revised travel guidance for Government departments on first class rail travel. [27]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

A revised set of guidance for travel and subsistence has been issued to departments. I shall place a copy of the guidance in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents in Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [11884]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

In May 2010 there were 160 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Rutherglen and Hamilton West.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Manufacturing Industries: Carlisle

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of the proportion of people in Carlisle constituency employed in the manufacturing sector. [9317]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the proportion of people in Carlisle constituency employed in the manufacturing sector. (9317)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The proportion of people of working age who were resident in Carlisle employed in the manufacturing sector was 9.7 per cent. These figures have been taken from the APS for the period January 2009 to December 2009.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Public Sector: Cumbria

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the working population in *(a)* Carlisle constituency and *(b)* Cumbria employed in the public sector. [9144]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the proportion of the working population in (a) Carlisle constituency and (b) Cumbria employed in the public sector. (9144)

The ONS compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Individuals are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the APS. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in National Accounts.

The proportion of the working age population employed in the public sector in the Carlisle constituency is 17.7 per cent and for Cumbria 17.0 per cent. These figures have been taken from the APS for the period January 2009 to December 2009.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Public Sector: Manpower

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of those working in the public sector work in the *(a)* education, *(b)* health and *(c)* local government sectors; and how many work in other sectors. [9143]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning, what proportion of those working in the public sector work in the (a) education, (b) health and (c) local government sectors; and how many work in other sectors. (9143).

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Proportion of public sector workers employed in (a) education (b) health (c) local government (d) other sectors and (e) total public sector[1]

Percentage—Not seasonally adjusted

		Health				
	Education[2]	*NHS*	*Other health and social care*[3]	*Local Government*[4]	*Other sectors*[5, 6]	*Total public sector*
2010 Q1	23	27	6	48	52	100

[1] Estimates of employment for education, health, local government and other sectors are not mutually exclusive. People employed in education, for example, are also included as part of local government employment estimates.

[2] Estimates of employment in 'education' are based on Standard Industrial Classification 2007 Division 80.

[3] Estimates of employment in 'other health and social care' are based on Standard Industrial Classification 2007, Divisions 86, 87 and 88.

[4] Includes some employment in 'education' and 'other health and social care'.

[5] The public sector comprises central government, local government and public corporations. 'Other sectors', in this context, refers to employment in central Government and public corporations.

[6] 'Other sectors', includes employment in the NHS (central Government) and some employment in education and other health and social care.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

PRIME MINISTER

Parliament: Security

Jim Shannon: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he is taking to ensure the personal details of security personnel are not disclosed. [11344]

The Prime Minister: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Bishops: Females

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners what recent representations he has received on the subject of the appointment of women bishops in the Church of England; and if he will make a statement. [10718]

Tony Baldry: I have received numerous representations on the subject of the appointment of Women Bishops in the Church of England. I addressed the General Synod on this matter in York on 10 July 2010, and I have placed a copy of my statement in the Library.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Mr Bone: To ask the Attorney-General how many cases have been brought for offences relating to human trafficking in each of the last three years. [11477]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service's records show that, in the last three years, the following prosecutions have been brought on charges under sections 57, 58 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, alleging trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation:

	Number of prosecutions
2007-08	87
2008-09	114
2009-10	102

Prosecutions brought on charges under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004, alleging trafficking for other exploitative purposes:

	Number of prosecutions
2007-08	3
2008-09	10
2009-10	19

The data relates only to the number of charged offences which reached first hearing in the magistrates courts.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Damian Collins: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what proportion of *(a)* all food, *(b)* meat, *(c)* fresh vegetables, *(d)* fresh fruit, *(e)* frozen vegetables and *(f)* eggs procured by the House of Commons Catering and Retail Services in the last 12 months for which figures are available was produced in the UK. [11550]

Sir Stuart Bell: No record is held of the country of origin of food procured by the House of Commons catering service and so it is not possible to state the proportion of meat, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit or frozen vegetables produced in the UK in the 12 months to March 2010.

However, butchery suppliers are periodically required to confirm the country of origin of meat and poultry supplied to the House of Commons, and when this was last done in April 2010, an estimated 0.04% of combined fresh meat and poultry purchases were not of British origin.

All fresh eggs supplied to the House of Commons in the 12 months to March 2010 were supplied by a British producer in Kent and were BEIC British Lion standard approved.

Damian Collins: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what contracts the House of Commons Department for Facilities has with food producers and suppliers in Kent. [11552]

Sir Stuart Bell: The House of Commons catering service purchases most of its food supplies through wholesalers for reasons of economy and logistics. Of the 36 contracts in place for supply of foodstuffs to the House of Commons, one is held by a company based in Kent for the supply of fresh eggs. No record is held of the number of food producers and suppliers in Kent who might be indirectly supplying the House of Commons through these wholesale suppliers and intermediaries.

Members' Staff: Termination of Employment

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many staff of hon. Members received P45 forms at the last payroll due to the transfer of staff pay functions to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; how many staff of hon. Members were removed from the Parliamentary ICT system as a result; and how many complaints the House of Commons Service and PICT have received from hon. Members or their staff about this matter. [11508]

Sir Stuart Bell: A total of 149 staff of hon. Members received P45 forms at the last payroll due to the transfer of staff pay functions to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. Some of the staff who had been issued P45s were incorrectly placed on a list of leavers, and three staff of hon. Members were temporarily removed from the Parliamentary ICT system as a result. On 7 July 2010 the Department e-mailed or wrote to all of the employees affected to apologise for any distress they had suffered. Twelve complaints about the matter were received by the House of Commons Service and PICT from hon. Members or their staff.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Democracy Diversity Fund

John Robertson: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what recent representations the Electoral Commission has received on the introduction of a democracy diversity fund. [11096]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has received no recent representations on the introduction of a democracy diversity fund.

Absent Voting

Philip Davies: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the extent of the misuse of postal voting at the last general election. [11213]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers to collate information about all reported cases of alleged electoral malpractice, including those relating to postal voting.

The Commission and ACPO will publish in January 2011 an analysis of cases of alleged malpractice reported during 2010, including any cases relating to the May 2010 UK parliamentary general election. This will include the status of any cases relating to allegations of specific postal voting offences and the outcome where cases have been resolved.

Carlisle City Council: Constituencies

John Stevenson: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission when the next review of local government ward boundaries for Carlisle Council will take place. [9242]

Mr Streeter: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England informs me that it has no current plans to carry out an electoral review of Carlisle city council.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Interest Charges

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to regulate interest rates charged by banks on unauthorised overdrafts. [10494]

Mr Davey: The coalition Government are committed to introducing stronger consumer protections, including measures to end unfair bank charges as set out in the coalition agreement. BIS is working with the Treasury on this issue and will be coming forward with measures in due course.

Broadband: Blaenau Gwent

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many households in Blaenau Gwent constituency he expects to be able to access broadband of 2 megabytes per second or faster by December 2012. [11827]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has made no assessment of the number of households in the Blaenau Gwent constituency expected to be able to access 2 Mbps by 2012. However, Broadband Delivery UK is assessing current broadband provision at community level in its work on delivery of universal service commitment and next generation broadband access.

Business: Government Assistance

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects Grant for Business Investment funding provided through regional development agencies to be resumed. [10545]

Mr Prisk: The recent Budget announced that the regional development agencies (RDAs) are to be abolished. In advance of the forthcoming Spending Review, any financial commitments that the RDAs wish to enter into from and including 2011/12 require the approval of both this Department and HM Treasury. This applies to Grant for Business funding as it does to all business support delivered by the agencies.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Bedford constituency received support from the Capital for Enterprise Fund in the last 12 months. [11426]

Mr Prisk: The Capital for Enterprise Fund has not made any investments in the Bedford constituency. Overall, the fund has made investments in 38 businesses with a total value of £50.8 million.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the review of the Grant for Business Investment and other Solutions for Business products will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [11534]

Mr Prisk: All Solutions for Business products are being looked at as part of the Department's Spending Review settlement, which is due to be published on 20 October 2010.

Business: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to consult businesses in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry on the effect on the region of reductions in government expenditure. [11942]

Mr Prisk: As part of the Spending Review engagement process, the Government are committed to engaging with and involving the whole country in the difficult decisions that will have to be taken. This includes businesses, large and small. Doing so will demonstrate that the Government believe there is a more open, transparent and collaborative approach to solving problems than has been the case in the past.

Ministers have been engaging with a variety of groups, individuals, public sector workers and organisations from all over the country via websites such as the Spending Challenge:

http://spendingchallenge.hm-treasury.gov.uk/

Ministers will continue to engage over the summer.

Cairn Energy

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what Cairn Energy and Capricorn Oil Ltd projects have received assistance through the Export Credits Guarantee Department in the last three years. [11912]

Mr Davey: None.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to monitor the financial and regulatory costs to businesses of participation in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme since the publication of the impact assessment. [11997]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

Government have not undertaken any additional assessment on the financial and regulatory costs since publication of the Final Impact Assessment in January 2010. Registration for participation in the scheme opened on 1 April and closes on 30 September and we have no reason to question the assessment made at the start of this year. The Final Impact Assessment estimated the net benefits overall of the scheme to be £3,800 million. We will keep the operation of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme under review.

Consumers: Protection

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to bring forward proposals to achieve the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to introduce stronger consumer protections; and if he will make a statement. [11847]

Mr Davey: Progress has already been made in a number of areas to improve consumer protection.

On 12 July I announced that the Government had reached agreement with the credit reference industry to give consumers easier access to their credit reports, and continued free access to credit reports for victims of identity fraud and the financially vulnerable. On the same date I also announced moves to strengthen consumer protection around holiday timeshares, with a consultation on the transposition of the EU timeshare directive.

On 14 July I announced a review of consumer credit and personal insolvency and my Department will be issuing a formal call for evidence following the summer recess. This is an opportunity to improve the safeguards on consumer credit products, where this is necessary, and in particular to ensure that people get fair deals on credit cards, loans and other products on the market, and improving access for the financially excluded.

I am currently reviewing the regulatory framework for consumer protection, including the role of all publicly funded consumer bodies. I am also reviewing options for action to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges. Further announcements will be made in due course.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10-days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11162]

Mr Davey: In the last three months, BIS has paid the following percentages of invoices:

Percentage

Month	*Within 5 working days*[1]	*Within 10 working days*[1]	*Within 30 calendar days*[2]
April 2010	n/a	93.2	99.5
May 2010	94.6	n/a	99.7
June 2010	93.7	n/a	99.7

[1] From May 2010, the requirement to monitor and report payment performance against 10-working days was changed to five working days; 10-day payment performance for May and June has not been recorded.

[2] BIS' standard agreed payment terms are payment in 30-days of receipt of a valid invoice.

BIS does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. We do not discriminate by size of business because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10104]

Mr Davey: £150 in total.

Departmental Overseas Visits

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much expenditure has been incurred by his Department on overseas travel in respect of each Minister in each year since its inception and 6 May 2010; what the *(a)* departure date, *(b)* return date and *(c)* destination was in each such case; what class of travel each Minister travelled; how much was claimed on travel and subsistence by each Minister on each visit; if he will place in the Library a copy of the itinerary for each such visit; and if he will make a statement. [10603]

Mr Davey: A list of all overseas visits undertaken by this Department's Ministers since the inception of the Department until 31 March 2008 and costing in excess of £500 were published on the Cabinet Office website. Copies of this information are also available in the Library. Details for 2009-10 and 2010-11 Q1 expenditure will be made available shortly.

The information includes name, date, destination, purpose of the trip and cost by each Minister. More detailed information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse of the literature produced by his Department and its predecessors has been in each year from 1997 to May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [10604]

Mr Davey: The Department produces many pieces of literature annually, as did its predecessors. Much of this activity is not controlled centrally and information about its costs could be assembled only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget was for ministerial travel in his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; how much was *(a)* spent and *(b)* unspent in each year; and if he will make a statement. [10519]

Mr Davey: Budgets are not set at this level.

Information regarding BIS Ministers' overseas travel up to 2008-09 which was originally published on the Cabinet Office website is available in the Library.

Information for 2009-10 will be available shortly.

East of England Development Agency: Lobbying

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W, on regional development agencies, and with reference to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 150W, on the East of England Regional Development Agency: public relations, if he will make an assessment of the compatibility of the East of England Development Agency's public affairs contract with Fishburn Hedges with his Department's guidance on hiring lobbyists; and how much that regional development agency has spent to date on public affairs consultants. [11261]

Mr Prisk: The East of England Development Agency's public affairs contract with Fishburn Hedges ended in January 2010.

Payments to Fishburn Hedges to date are as follows:

	£
2005	81,905.26
2006	168,483.98
2007	222,570.74
2008	73,285.76
2009	91,116.54

EU Grants and Loans

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from regional development agencies on the future of the European Regional Development Fund. [11733]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has received no official representation from the regional development agencies on the future of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). RDAs have, however, made informal inquiries to Government on the future of the ERDF and guidance has been provided, where possible.

Foreign Investment in UK: China

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of foreign direct investment from China *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each sector in each of the last five years. [R] [10606]

Mr Prisk: The available data is shown in the following table. Updated figures are due to be available from the Office for National Statistics on 3 February 2011.

£ million

	Net foreign direct investment flows into the United Kingdom from China					*Net FDI international investment position in the United Kingdom from China*
Industrial activity of UK affiliates	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*End 2008*
Total	-26	13	12	16	-20	202
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and quarrying (including oil/gas)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food products	—	—	—	—	—	—
Textile and wood, printing and publishing	[1]—	—	—	0	[1]—	[1]—
Chemical, plastic and fuel products	[1]—	[1]—	—	0	[1]—	[1]—
Metal and mechanical products	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office, IT and communications equipment	—	—	—	0	—	—
Transport equipment	—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—
Other manufacturing	—	—	—	0	[1]—	[1]—
Electricity, gas and water	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction	—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—
Retail/wholesale trade and repairs	[1]—	9	7	11	0	59
Hotels and restaurants	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transport and communications	0	0	2	1	[1]—	1
Financial services	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	0	[1]—
Real estate and business services	0	1	[1]—	1	0	6
Other services	—	—	—	0	[1]—	[1]—

'—' Indicates that no data were returned

[1] Indicates that data are disclosive and cannot be published

Source:

ONS Business Monitor MA4, Tables 5.3 and 6.3

Further Education: Capital Investment

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much capital support grant each further education college in London will receive in 2010-11. [11174]

Mr Willetts: As set out in the following table 14, Greater London colleges including three sixth form colleges are due to receive grants amounting to £114 million in 2010-11 subject to receipt of eligible claims. Twenty-two Greater London colleges are also eligible to apply for the £50 million Renewal and Enhanced Renewal fund as part of the additional £50 million capital funding announced by the Chancellor on the 24 May.

College name	*2010-11 total grant profile (£)*
Barnet College	4,335,537
Bromley College	1,878,901
City of Westminster College	40,543,381
Coulsdon College	6,456
Croydon College	17,374,577
Lambeth College	27,376
Leyton College	3,947,795
Orpington College	4,872,156
South Thames College (including the former Merton College)	10,119,097
St Dominic's Sixth Form College	9,105
Tower Hamlets College	175,000
Uxbridge College	8,634
West Thames College	30,944,021
Westminster Kingsway College	366,362
	114,608,398

Eligible colleges for Renewal Grant and Enhanced Renewal Grant

Barking College

Bexley College

Carshalton College

College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London

Greenwich Community College

Harrow College

Havering College of Further Education

Hillcroft College
Kensington and Chelsea College
Kingston College
Lewisham College
Mary Ward Centre (The)
Newham College of Further Education
Redbridge College
Richmond Adult Community College
Richmond upon Thames College
Southgate College
Southwark College
Tower Hamlets College
Uxbridge College
Waltham Forest College
Workers' Educational Association
Working Men's College (The)

Further Education: Finance

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of total spending on further education colleges was allocated in respect of *(a)* staff costs related to teaching and *(b)* all staff costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [12002]

Mr Willetts: Funding is allocated to further education (FE) colleges and other training organisations for delivery of further education and skills training.

As autonomous bodies it is for FE colleges to determine the amount of funding they spend on teaching and other staff costs in order to deliver this provision.

Each college publishes their own accounts. The Skills Funding Agency summarises information from all college accounts on their website:

www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk

Higher Education

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to revise the system by which private higher education institutions are granted degree-awarding powers; and what his Department's plans are for private higher education institutions and their ability to award qualifications. [5690]

Mr Willetts: There are no immediate plans to change the system by which private sector organisations are granted degree-awarding powers but this is an area which we will keep under review.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to encourage access to higher education for those from low income backgrounds. [10568]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The need to attract more students from disadvantaged backgrounds into higher education is written into the coalition agreement. This makes clear that once Lord Browne's Independent Review of Higher Education funding and student finance has reported, its proposals will be judged against the Coalition's agreed criteria, which include increasing social mobility and attracting more students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on levels of expenditure on higher education. [10980]

Mr Willetts: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly discusses a range of subjects with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, including higher education.

Higher Education: Per Capita Costs

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average cost to the public purse was of an undergraduate university course in the latest period for which figures are available. [11224]

Mr Willetts: There is no published estimate of the overall average cost to the public purse of an undergraduate university course due to differences in the definitions of which students are eligible for teaching grant and student support. Estimates are however available of expenditure per receiving student per year for each of these components separately:

Teaching expenditure—in academic year 2008/09 the average teaching grant expenditure per funded student (both undergraduate and postgraduate) was around £4,200 per year.

Student support expenditure—in 2008/09 around 870,000 students were awarded student support in the form of grants and/or loans. In total £1.136 billion was received in grants at an average of £1,300 per student awarded student support. Maintenance and fee loans for these students totalled £4.698 billion, which would have an average budgetary cost[1] per student awarded student support of around £1,500.

[1] The budgetary cost represents the future cost to government of subsidising and writing off the loans issued.

Higher Education: South Yorkshire

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people resident in Don Valley constituency entered *(a)* higher education and *(b)* university in each of the last 12 years. [10711]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold constituency-level data for students studying higher education courses at further education colleges. It is, therefore, not possible to provide the numbers of all young higher education entrants from the Don Valley constituency.

The numbers of young (under 21) undergraduate entrants from the Don Valley constituency to UK higher education institutions (universities and higher education colleges) are provided in the table as an alternative. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and are provided for the academic years to 1997/98 to 2008/09. Data for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from January 2011.

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] from the Don Valley constituency[3], UK higher education institutions[4], academic years 1997/98 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Young undergraduate entrants*
1997/98	280
1998/99	310
1999/2000	310
2000/01	275
2001/02	330
2002/03	325
2003/04	325
2004/05	340
2005/06	390
2006/07	335
2007/08	340
2008/09	385

[1] Young refers to entrants aged under 21.

[2] Covers entrants to both full-time and part-time courses.

[3] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[4] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA snapshot population as at 1 December.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Source

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Methyl Bromide

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations he has received on the prohibition of methyl bromide by the EU; and what alternative fumigants to methyl bromide are available for the treatment of timber and timber products. [6344]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

The use of methyl bromide as a pesticide was reviewed by the European Commission during 2008 as part of the ongoing review of the safety of all pesticides and as a result methyl bromide was found to have harmful effects on human health. It was therefore made illegal to use the substance as a pesticide after 18 March 2010. Consequently, the use of methyl bromide is no longer allowed under EU Regulation 1005/2009 on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

The Secretary of State has received no representations on the prohibition of methyl bromide by the EU. However Lord Henley and I have both responded to correspondence from MPs about the use of methyl bromide in the fumigation of willow for cricket bats for export to India. The Department has also received representations from the Specialist Cheesemakers Association.

Currently, there is no alternative fumigant approved under international agreements for the phytosanitary treatment of timber or wood products.

Overseas Trade: Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of jobs in the UK that are dependent on trade with Israel; and if he will make a statement. [R] [10605]

Mr Prisk: Estimates regarding the total number of jobs in the UK dependent on trade with any particular country are not available. There is no requirement for companies to notify UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) of their international activities. UKTI only has access to trade and investment figures relating to projects where UKTI or its regional partners were specifically involved. These figures will not realistically reflect the number of jobs that are dependent upon trade with Israel.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government Department with responsibility for helping British companies succeed overseas and attracting foreign direct investment into the UK.

Postal Workers: Cycling

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the environmental effects of Royal Mail's plans to phase out the use of post-bikes. [11945]

Mr Davey: Decisions regarding the methods used for its delivery operations are the responsibility of Royal Mail's management team and not matters for Government. As the level of packets and parcels in delivery rounds increases, due to the growth in goods ordered online, the daily mailbag may not in many cases be suitable for carriage on bicycles and it is vital that the company delivers the mail as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Royal Mail always considers the environmental impact of any operational changes it makes. It has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by more than 12% since 2004-05 (transport-related emissions have reduced by 9.8%) and is wholly committed to achieving even more stretching reductions in years to come. The group achieved a reported reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions of 26,797.1 tonnes in 2008/09.

Regional Development Agencies: Land

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the land assets held by each regional development agency following dissolution. [11927]

Mr Prisk: Regional development agencies own a range of land assets which were acquired for regeneration purposes. Some of these assets may be sold by agencies as part of their normal programme of disposal over the next year. We will be discussing with RDAs, their partners and other Departments the future ownership of assets. No final decisions have been made.

Research: Standards

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the Research Excellence Framework. [11598]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England, and higher education funding bodies elsewhere in the UK, have together incurred costs of £1.4 million in developing the Research Excellence Framework (REF) during 2009-10. The results of REF will inform 5-6 years of research funding allocations (which currently amount to over £1.6 billion per annum in England).

Sheffield Forgemasters

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on what date *(a)* he, *(b)* each other Minister in his Department and *(c)* each official in his Department who was involved in decision-making on the proposed loan to Sheffield Forgemasters was first aware of the contents of each piece of correspondence from Andrew Cook to his Department referred to during the debate on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 523-32; what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on this correspondence; on what date such discussions took place; and if he will make a statement; [11573]

(2) whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department had discussions with (i) the Chairman, (ii) any representative and (iii) any employee of William Cook Holdings Ltd on matters relating to the withdrawal of the proposed loan facility to Sheffield Forgemasters on 21 July 2010; [11583]

(3) what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* telephone discussions and *(c)* correspondence (i) he and (ii) his officials have had with (A) Andrew Cook, owner of William Cook Holdings Ltd and (B) employees and representatives of the company on Sheffield Forgemasters since 7 May 2010; on what dates such contact took place in each case; what the outcome of each such contact was; and if he will make a statement. [11556]

Mr Prisk: Mr Cook sent an email to my constituency address on 25 May. I forwarded it to my BIS private office on the same day. Mr Cook then emailed the advice he had received from Linklaters directly to my private office on 9 June.

Mr Cook's representations were subsequently circulated to a small number of officials within the Department, including three senior civil servants (Janice Munday, Mike Keoghan and Aileen Boughen). My private office responded to both of Mr Cook's emails thanking him for sharing his concerns and saying that they had been noted.

The Department has had no meetings with any representatives of William Cook Holdings on the subject of Sheffield Forgemasters. Following your request for a copy of the representations from Mr Cook in your letter to me of 30 June, an official wrote to Mr Cook on 16 July, in accordance with the best practice set out by the Information Commissioner for consulting third parties in relation to requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act. The same official also had brief telephone conversations with Mr Cook on 16 July and 21 July.

There were no discussions between BIS Ministers about Mr Cook's representations prior to their disclosure to you.

Students: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the range of revenues which could accrue to universities in England through the introduction of tuition fees varied *(a)* by academic institution and *(b)* by degree programme; and if he will make a statement. [11319]

Mr Willetts: Variable tuition fees were introduced in England in 2006, following the Higher Education Act 2004, which allows universities to set any fee up to a maximum of £3,290 (in 2010-11).

The future of fees policy is currently being reviewed by the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, led by Lord Browne. The Review will consider how to ensure a properly funded university sector in a way which is more financially sustainable than the current system, and it is looking at a wide range of options. It will report in the autumn.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of a graduate tax on the number of available university places; and if he will make a statement. [11856]

Mr Willetts: The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, led by Lord Browne, has been tasked with making recommendations to Government on the future of fees policy and financial support for students in England. The review will consider how to ensure a properly funded university sector in a way which is more financially sustainable than the current system. The review is looking at a wide range of options, including the feasibility of a progressive graduate contribution tied to earnings. It will report in the autumn.

Students: Loans

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to increase the maintenance loan available to students from January 2011 to reflect the change in living costs attributable to the proposed rise in the standard rate of value added tax. [11922]

Mr Willetts: The student maintenance loan has been set for the 2010/11 academic year and we have no plans to change it. No decision has been made on the level of maintenance loan for future years.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Betting Shops: Greater London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from the Mayor of London on planning and betting shops in London since his appointment. [10926]

Robert Neill: No representations have been received. Gambling Policy is a matter for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Council Housing: Young People

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people under the age of 18 years who have applied for local authority housing in each of the last five years. [11175]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not collected centrally.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11160]

Robert Neill: Communities and Local Government do not differentiate payments by supplier size as we have determined to pay all suppliers within 10 days.

The percentage of supplier invoices paid within 10 days of receipt in April 2010 was 90.89%. In May it was 92.23% and in June it was 93.76%. We do not record payment data against agreed payment terms.

Deprived Areas: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which lower layer super output areas in Peterborough constituency are in the 10 per cent. most deprived such areas in the country. [11377]

Robert Neill: There are 69 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that have their central point within the Peterborough constituency. Of these, 11 (16%) are amongst the 10% most deprived areas in England as defined by the Indices of Deprivation 2007. Table 1 lists these 11 areas, and their IMD scores and ranks (with one being the most deprived and 32,482 being the least deprived).

Table 1: LSOAs in Peterborough constituency which are amongst the 10% most deprived in England:

LSOA Code	*LSOA Name*	*IMD2007 Score*	*IMD2007 Rank*
E01015609	Peterborough 007B	61.13	803
E01015607	Peterborough 007A	52.06	1937
E01015616	Peterborough 013F	49.68	2379
E01015658	Peterborough 007E	48.99	2499
E01015600	Peterborough 014B	48.29	2625
E01015604	Peterborough 010B	48.12	2652
E01015663	Peterborough 009D	47.67	2744
E01015664	Peterborough 009E	47.23	2828
E01015599	Peterborough 014A	47.19	2836
E01015611	Peterborough 013B	47.05	2866
E01015657	Peterborough 007D	45.52	3209

Table 2 shows the distribution of LSOAs and people in the Peterborough constituency across the deciles of the Indices of Deprivation

Table 2: Neighbourhoods and population of Peterborough constituency in IMD 2007 deciles

IMD Decile	*Number of LSOAs*	*Population*	*Percentage of population*
1[1]	11	17,358	16
2	9	14,571	14
3	17	26,517	25
4	6	8,061	8
5	6	8,847	8
6	4	5,634	5
7	4	6,309	6
8	6	9,984	9
9	5	6,816	6
10[2]	1	1,458	1
Total	69	105,555	

Table 2: Neighbourhoods and population of Peterborough constituency in IMD 2007 deciles

[1] Most deprived

[2] Least deprived

Fire Services: Contracts

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what cancellation charges apply in respect of each of the contracts awarded under the FiReControl Project. [11198]

Robert Neill: The only FiReControl contracts to which significant cancellation charges could apply would be the contracts awarded to EADS to develop the IT solution and to VT Flagship for facilities management. If any cancellation charges were applied, these could vary significantly depending on the circumstances in which the contracts were cancelled. Specific arrangements set out in these contracts cannot be disclosed due to commercial confidentiality.

Floods: Cumbria

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the role of the Government Office for the North West in the response to the 2009 Cumbrian floods; and how he expects that role to be fulfilled in future. [11891]

Greg Clark: The Cumbria floods in 2009 clearly showed how local people, local government, emergency services and central government effectively worked together on an emergency response and the ongoing recovery.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made to the House on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS, on regional government in which we stated that there are, however, some Government office functions, such as arrangements for resilience and civil contingencies, which will need to continue. The spending review process will be used to test which activities currently carried out by the Government offices should continue, and to decide the most cost-effective ongoing arrangements.

Government Office for the North West

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many third sector organisations, community groups and voluntary groups have been assisted by the Government Office for the North West in the last three years. [10791]

Greg Clark: GONW typically works through intermediaries rather than direct intervention with individual organisations.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the future of the Government Office for the North West; and when he expects to announce his decision on the future of the Office. [10843]

Greg Clark: The Secretary of State has received seven representations regarding the future of the Government Office for the North West to date.

I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement on regional government made to the House on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 27-28WS.

Government Offices for the Regions

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what formal consultation his Department has undertaken in relation to his review of regional Government offices. [11406]

Greg Clark: The coalition Government's 'Programme for Government' published on 20 May stated that

> "we will abolish the Government Office for London and consider the case for abolishing the remaining Government Offices".

We have received a wide range of representations following its publication.

Consultation has taken place with staff, trade unions, and sponsor Departments. Local authorities were asked to submit their views as part of a wider conversation on reducing the burden on local government following the publication of the coalition agreement.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made to the House on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS, on regional government. Consultation on the future of the network will be covered by the spending review consultation process already announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities he consulted before taking the decision to abolish the Government Office Network. [11585]

Greg Clark: On 28 May my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Local Government wrote to local authority chief executives and leaders asking them for their ideas on reducing the burden on local government. Among ideas suggested by local authorities were representations supporting the removal of the remaining Government offices.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the role of the Government Office for the South East in the response to the Buncefield oil depot explosion; and how he expects that role to be fulfilled in future. [11893]

Robert Neill: Following the Buncefield fire in December 2005 an independent Major Incident Investigation Board (MIIB), independently chaired by the right hon. the Lord Newton of Braintree was established under the direction of the Health and Safety Commission to conduct an investigation into the causes and ways to avoid or mitigate against similar incidents in the future. The Board published a number of reports. These included the report "Recommendations on the emergency preparedness for, response to and recovery from incidents" published in July 2007 which included the role of the Government Office for the East of England.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made to the House on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 27-28WS, on Regional Government in which we stated the Government's intention in principle to abolish the remaining eight Government Offices, but stated that there are some Government Office functions, such as arrangements for resilience and civil contingencies, which will need to continue.

The Spending Review process will be used to test which activities currently carried out by the Government Offices should continue, and to decide the most cost-effective on-going arrangements

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Government Office Network played in co-ordinating the Government's response to the swine influenza outbreak; and what plans he has for coordination of regional responses to future similar events. [11924]

Greg Clark: The Department of Health (DH) and Cabinet Office (CO) published "Pandemic Flu: A National Framework for Responding to an Influenza Pandemic" in November 2007. This sets out the central, regional and local response arrangements in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak. The National framework is currently being reviewed in the light of our experience during the 2009 influenza pandemic and the recommendations of the independent review into the swine flu response, chaired by Dame Deidre Hine. This will include consideration of the roles and responsibilities in planning for a future pandemic.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made to the House on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 27-28WS on Regional Government in which we stated that there are some Government Office functions, such as arrangements for resilience and civil contingencies, which will need to continue. The Spending Review process will be used to test which activities currently carried out by the Government Offices should continue, and to decide the most cost-effective on-going arrangements.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Government Office staff are engaged in duties relating to the past closure requirements of the 2000-2006 European Regional Development Fund programme; and what arrangements he plans to make for completion of such duties following the end of the Government Office Network. [11950]

Greg Clark: There are 59.2 full-time equivalent staff engaged in duties relating to the part-closure requirements of the 2000-06 European Regional Development Fund programme in the Government Office Network.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made to the House on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 27-28WS on Regional Government in which we stated that there are some Government Office functions which will need to continue, including work on the European Regional Development Fund programme. The Spending Review process is being used to test which activities currently carried out by the Government Offices should continue, and to decide the most cost-effective on-going arrangements.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he undertook a cost/benefit analysis as part of his review of the Government Office Network. [11951]

Greg Clark: An outline business case addressing costs and savings has informed the decision in principle; there will be further related work through the Spending Review before the final decision on the Government Office Network's closure is taken in the autumn.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he undertook a risk analysis as part of his review of the Government Office Network. [11952]

Greg Clark: We will be undertaking a full risk analysis as we work through the spending review before the final decision on the Government office network is taken in the autumn.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he carried out an Equalities Impact Assessment before determining his policy on the Government Office Network. [11953]

Greg Clark: An equality impact assessment will be undertaken before a final decision on the Government office network is taken in the autumn.

Government Offices for the Regions: Voluntary Organisations

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which voluntary sector organisations he consulted as part of his review of the Government Office Network. [11892]

Greg Clark: There has been no specific consultation with the voluntary sector organisations on the Coalition's review of the case for closure of the Government Office Network, however, we have been in dialogue with the Voluntary Sector on our decentralisation and Big Society agendas.

Greater London Authority: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* discussions, *(b)* meetings and *(c)* exchanges of correspondence he has had with the Mayor of London on the grant to be awarded to the Greater London Authority since his appointment. [10927]

Robert Neill: There have been no ministerial discussions or correspondence with the Mayor to date about the grant given by the Department for Communities and Local Government for the Greater London Authority.

Housing Benefit

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of demand for emergency social housing from local authorities of the proposed reduction in the level of housing benefit. [11275]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Work and Pensions assesses the impact of proposed changes on specific groups as part of the policy development process. DWP published an initial equalities impact assessment on 23 July which can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/whats%2Dnew/

and will be working with the Department of Communities and Local Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Government, along with local authorities, to assess the wider impacts on their housing functions. DWP will also publish a full impact assessment when legislation is being laid before Parliament.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of demand for private rented accommodation consequent on the proposed reduction in the level of housing benefit. [11276]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Work and Pensions will be undertaking an assessment of the impact of the proposed reduction in housing benefit as part of the policy development process. They will be working with the Department of Communities and Local Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Government, along with local authorities, to assess the wider impacts of the changes.

Housing: Construction

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent discussions he has had with housing associations and local authorities on the Kickstart programme; [11483]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the Kickstart programme. [11486]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* There have been a small number of representations received through correspondence from local Members of Parliament regarding a number of specific programmes, which Ministers have replied to directly. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) are in regular contact with relevant local authorities, registered social landlords and other key stakeholders in relation to the review of some Kickstart programmes to ensure they are kept informed of progress. In London, this review will be undertaken by the HCA's London Board which is chaired by the Mayor of London.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing incentives to local authorities to make provision for new housing development in each of the next three years. [11852]

Grant Shapps: We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The coalition agreement set out our clear intention to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including new homes and business.

Officials are working up the design of the new scheme and we will consult on it later this year. We are committed to housing growth. Introducing these incentives will be a priority and we aim to do so early in the spending review period.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much he expects each *(a)* district council, *(b)* unitary authority and *(c)* county council to receive on average in incentives for the provision of new social housing in each of the next three years; [11853]

(2) if he will publish the financial models used to design his policy to provide incentives to local authorities to make provision for new housing development. [11854]

Grant Shapps: We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The coalition agreement set out our clear intention to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including new homes and business.

Those local authorities which take action now to consent and support the construction of new homes will receive direct and substantial benefit from their actions. Because we are committed to housing growth, introducing these incentives will be a priority and we aim to do so early in the spending review period. Officials are working up the design of the new scheme and we will consult on the scheme later this year.

Housing: Immigration

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent assessment is of the likely effect of immigration on the level of demand for housing in England in the next 20 years. [10739]

Andrew Stunell: The potential future demand for housing can be informed by DCLG's household projections. The latest projections were published on the DCLG website in March 2009

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/2031households0309

and are based on the 2006-based population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics. They provide a long term view of the net growth in the number of households given a projected population and previous demographic trends. As such the household projections do not take into account changes in policy or economic circumstances that may have a material effect on future household formation and do not explicitly reflect the different tenure pattern and household formation of migrant groups. The household projections reflect a net position; the number of newly forming households net of those that dissolve. Using the zero net migration population variant it is estimated that net international migration could account, on average, for 40% of the net growth in households in England over the projection period from 2006 to 2031.

However, this does not directly equate to the actual effective demand for housing. This will also be determined by factors such as the ability of individual households to meet the cost of housing which is in turn influenced by the wider economic context. These projections also do not take into account the 2008-based population projections, subsequently published by the ONS, which include lower projected levels of net international migration. DCLG expect to publish 2008-based household projections later this year.

Local Government

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to request a review of the size of local authority wards. [9600]

Robert Neill: Local government electoral arrangements in England, including any questions as to the size of local authority wards, are matters for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England—a parliamentary body independent of Government which reports to the House through the Speaker's Committee.

Local Government Finance

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he expects local authorities to make savings consequent on the publication of details of all purchases from suppliers of items over £500. [11230]

Robert Neill: Local people should be able to hold politicians and public bodies to account over how their money is being spent and how decisions are being made on their behalf. We expect the publication of details of all purchases from suppliers of items over £500 to unleash an army of 'armchair auditors' who will ensure councils push for the best value for money. In addition by making clear what councils are spending their money on, opportunities will arise for new providers to propose new ways to do things more efficiently and cheaply.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 907W, on local government finance, what procedure he plans to follow to assess the merits of reductions in local government expenditure as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review; and what information he plans to take into account in his assessment. [11649]

Robert Neill: As in previous Spending Reviews, the Government will draw together evidence on cost pressures and the scope for efficiencies in local government, drawn from a range of sources. These will include submissions from the Local Government Association and others in the local government sector; and contributions which members of the public and frontline public sector workers make in response to our Spending Challenge. We will also take account of burdens we have removed from local government—such as comprehensive area assessment—which reduce local authority costs.

Local Government: Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in the number of directly-employed local authority staff has been since 2000; and what estimate has been made of the number of directly-employed staff who have been replaced by use of outsourced or contracted-out services in that period. [11517]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold records of the number of people employed by local authorities. The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector including local authorities in England and Wales as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey. Data from this survey have been published with written permission from all local authorities by the Local Government Association on their website and are available at:

http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1955843

No estimate has been made of the number of directly-employed staff who have been replaced by use of outsourced or contracted-out services in that period.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the change in central Government expenditure on the Local Government Pension scheme attributable to the use of the consumer prices index for pension indexation in the next five years. [11059]

Robert Neill: No estimate is available; however, the outcomes of the individual actuarial valuations of the eighty-nine Local Government Pension scheme funds in England and Wales currently underway will take account of the change in pension indexation when new employer contribution rates are provided for employers in the scheme to apply from April 2011 to ensure ongoing individual fund solvency.

Local Government: Teesside

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will discuss with local representatives in Teesside the formation of a sub-regional identity for Teesside; and if he will make a statement. [11114]

Robert Neill: I am aware that Tees Valley has a well established history of partnership working across local government and business, and that it has been exploring potential to form a local enterprise partnership. The Government will be very happy to receive such a proposal, if that is the wish of local authorities and local businesses in the area.

Mayors: Leicester

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set a timescale for mayoral elections in the city of Leicester. [11272]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Nottingham North (Mr Allen) on 22 July, *Official Report*, column 488W.

National House Building Council

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the role of the National House Building Council as the building controls authority for new-build housing. [10826]

Andrew Stunell: The NHBC are not the only building control provider for new build housing. The developer has the choice of who carries out the building control function for their building work which can be either the local authority building control or a private sector approved inspector, such as NHBC.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many businesses will be affected by the proposal in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rate bills for newly assessed properties that were split from a larger rateable property; how many businesses are not covered by this definition but have received backdated bills; and what the total liabilities are of businesses in each category; [11351]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect of the proposal announced in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rates on the total revenue from business rates in England in each of the next 10 years. [11353]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The Government have been committed to find a permanent solution for companies, such as some affected companies in ports, hit by certain backdated rates bills to help safeguard jobs and businesses. Estimates published by HMT for the June 2010 Budget gave figures for the cost of waiving certain backdated business rate bills

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

These costs will be assessed again, and the questions on the number of businesses affected and their liability addressed, in the impact assessment that will accompany the regulations for the cancellation of backdated business rates.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* net present value is of the proposal in the June 2010 Budget to cancel backdated business rate bills eligible for the eight-year schedule of payments scheme. [11355]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The Government have been committed to find a permanent solution for companies, such as some affected companies in ports, hit by certain backdated rates bills to help safeguard jobs and businesses. Estimates published by HMT for the June 2010 Budget gave figures for the cost of waiving certain backdated business rate bills

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

These costs will be assessed again, and the questions on the number of businesses affected and their liability addressed, in the impact assessment that will accompany the regulations for the cancellation of backdated business rates.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 40W, on non-domestic rates, when he plans to lay before Parliament legislation to give effect to the proposed backdating of non-domestic rating. [11732]

Robert Neill: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 908W.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to increase the level of small business rate relief. [11979]

Robert Neill: We are doubling the level of small business rate relief in England for one year, from 1 October 2010. Over half a million businesses in England are expected to benefit, with approximately 345,000 businesses paying no rates. The Government are also committed to find a practical way to make small business rate relief automatic, in accordance with the coalition agreement.

Non-domestic Rates: Farms

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the reduction in revenue from business rates consequent on the non-rating of agricultural buildings in the latest period for which figures are available. [11158]

Robert Neill: No estimates of the reduction in revenue from business rates consequent on the non-rating of agricultural buildings are available.

Planning

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* directions and *(b)* other decisions by local planning authorities require his consent before taking effect. [10776]

Robert Neill: The following decisions by a local planning authority must be notified to the Secretary of State to allow him to decide whether the application should be called in for his own determination:

(i) Where it is proposed to grant planning permission for certain types of green belt development, development outside town centres, World Heritage Site development, playing field development or flood risk area development. The specific developments covered are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009;

(ii) Article 14 Directions under the General Development Procedure Order 1995 may also be issued to prevent a local authority from granting planning permission for any development whilst the Secretary of State considers whether the planning application should be called in for his own determination;

(iii) Developments that local authorities intend to grant planning permission for and which would adversely affect the integrity of an internationally designated nature conservation site (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010);

(iv) Where a local authority proposes to carry out operations that may damage the features of interest within an SSSI against the advice of Natural England (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981);

(v) Applications for listed building consent which affect Grade I and II*, or demolish significant parts of Grade II, listed buildings and where English Heritage object (ODPM Circular 01/2001);

(vi) Private listed building applications if English Heritage or any of the National Amenity Societies object (ODPM Circular 01/2001);

(vii) Applications by local planning authorities for listed building consent in their own area (The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990).

Other circumstances where decisions by planning authorities may require the consent of the Secretary of State include:

(i) For Local Development Frameworks: submission of a local development scheme to the Secretary of State who may direct changes; withdrawal of a development plan document after it has been submitted and revocation of a local development document after it has been adopted; and establishing or dissolving a joint planning committee (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004);

(ii) Orders for the modification and revocation of planning permissions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;

(iii) Discontinuance Orders under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;

(iv) Completion notices served under certain circumstances under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;

(v) Prohibition Orders and Suspension Orders under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;

(vi) Modification or cancellation of an Article 4 Direction under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended);

(vii) Modification or cancellation of a Local Development Order under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended);

(viii) Orders revoking or modifying listed building consent under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;

(ix) Directions requiring express consent for certain advertisements to be displayed in a specified area for which deemed consent would otherwise be available (the Town and Country Planning. (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007);

(x) Orders defining an "Area of Special Control of Advertisements" under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007;

(xi) Disposal of land that is held by a local authority for planning purposes for less than the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained (Section 233 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990);

(xii) Applications to dispose of, sell or build on land where required by the Green Belt (London and Home Counties) Act 1938;

(xiii) Variations or revocations made to Tree Preservation Orders where an objection has been raised to the variation or revocation;

(xiv) Compulsory Purchase Orders made under Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;

(xv) Applications for hazardous substance consent made by a planning authority where the planning authority is also the hazardous substances authority under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 1992;

(xvi) Modification and Revocation Orders under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the provisions of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 as required by the Green Energy (Definitions and Promotions) Act 2009; [11015]

(2) what representations he has received on amendments to the provisions of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 as required under section 3 of the Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act 2009. [11016]

Greg Clark: A statutory instrument will be laid before Parliament shortly.

A summary of the responses to the public consultation regarding these proposals and the Government response will be published as soon as possible thereafter.

Private Rented Housing

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to protect private tenants from unscrupulous landlords. [11600]

Andrew Stunell: Local authorities already have extensive powers to take action against rogue landlords. We will work with them to ensure that any barriers to them using those powers are lifted.

Social Rented Housing: Antisocial Behaviour

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing tenancies were demoted as a result of anti-social behaviour in each of the last five years. [12039]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the number of social housing tenancies demoted as a result of antisocial behaviour in each of the last five years is not available.

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many anti-social behaviour injunctions were served on local authority tenants in each of the last five years; and how many arrests under section 91 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 there were in respect of such injunctions. [12040]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the number of injunctions granted under section 153 of the Housing Act 1996 (antisocial behaviour injunctions) was reported by local authorities in England on the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). Local authorities reported that 1,119 antisocial behaviour injunctions were granted during 2008-09. Reliable estimates of the number of antisocial behaviour injunctions granted in previous years are not available.

No data is available on the number of arrests under section 91 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 in respect of such injunctions.

Social Rented Housing: Foreign Nationals

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the total number of foreign national headed households in social housing; and what this represents as a proportion of the total social housing stock. [10582]

Andrew Stunell: Over the two years 2006-07 and 2007-08 there were, in England, an estimated 310,000 foreign national headed households in social housing—accounting for 7.7% of all social households.

These figures were derived from the Survey of English Housing. More recent estimates will be released in autumn 2010 when the final report of the inaugural English Housing Survey for 2008-09 is published.

The definition of 'foreign national' used above is consistent with that used in published results from the Survey of English Housing; namely a foreign national is someone who is not a national of the UK or Ireland.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the new *(a)* local authority social lettings and *(b)* registered social landlord lettings were to foreign nationals from (i) EU states and (ii) non-EU states in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [10585]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the number of foreign national households receiving social housing is collected through the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). Historically, CORE has only collected information from registered social landlords. An increasing number of local authorities are now providing information through this process as well, but there are still some gaps in the data.

Estimates for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 754 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1417846.xls

For the two years for which figures are available, the proportion of new social lettings that were to EU foreign nationals and to non-EU foreign nationals are set out in the following table both for local authority landlords and for RSL landlords.

New lettings to EU and non-EU foreign nationals of new social lettings by type of provider, 2007-08 and 2008-09

Percentage

	Local authority housing		*Registered social landlord housing*		*All social housing*		
	EU foreign nationals	*Non-EU foreign nationals*	*EU foreign nationals*	*Non-EU foreign nationals*	*EU foreign nationals*	*Non-EU foreign nationals*	*All foreign nationals*
2007-08	3.3	4.9	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.6	6.5
2008-09	3.7	5.0	2.9	2.6	3.2	3.6	6.8

Supermarkets: Planning Permission

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to give local authorities powers to take into account the economic and environmental effects on the surrounding area of new supermarket stores in the planning application process. [10149]

Robert Neill: We recognise how important it is that we protect town centres and ensure genuine shopping choice for local communities. National planning policy (contained in Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4): 'Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth') enables local authorities to take account of the economic, social and environmental impacts when considering planning applications for new supermarket developments.

In the coalition agreement, the Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy. We recognise the concern that exists concerning the application of PPS4 and will be re-examining it in this context.

Urban Areas

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the 12 largest local authorities in England with city status are in terms of *(a)* population and *(b)* area. [11547]

Robert Neill: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes population estimates for local authorities, the latest of which relate to a mid-2009 time point:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106

Standard area measurements for local authorities are calculated by the ONS and published on their website:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/geography/products/geog-products-other/sam/index.html

The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), now part of the Ministry of Justice, maintains the list of grants of city status in the UK. Following the Golden Jubilee city status competition, there are now 66 cities in the UK—50 in England, five in Wales, six in Scotland and five in Northern Ireland:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/constitution/city/citygj.htm#part6

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 27 July 2010

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the repairs to Yatimchay Road in Helmand Province intended to make the road safer from attack by improvised explosive devices. [7685]

Mr Hague: I have been asked to reply.

We continue to invest in construction measures, including stronger roads and better roadside infrastructure, to improve freedom of movement for Afghan civilians and counter the threat from emplaced Improved Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Responsibility for the Yatimchay Road project passed to the US Marine Corps in April 2010 as part of the handover of the Musa Qala district to US Command. The project has been fully surveyed and, given the scale, presented to senior US officers for approval. The proposal includes a hardened section of road at points of greatest vulnerability to IEDs.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his US counterpart on coordination of the drawdown timetables of US and UK armed forces in Afghanistan. [8819]

Nick Harvey: The Secretary of State regularly discusses the international mission in Afghanistan with his US counterpart, including the plan for transition of security responsibility from the International Security Assistance Force to the Afghan National Security Forces, and he did so during his recent visit to the US from 28 June to 2 July.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the cost-effectiveness of the use of attack *(a)* helicopters and *(b)* pilots in Afghanistan. [10470]

Mr Gerald Howarth: We are reviewing the cost effectiveness of all our capabilities as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Air Force

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish a diagram of the structure and responsibilities of RAF—HQ Air Command. [11772]

Nick Harvey: The operations and the business of the Royal Air Force are administered by Headquarters Air Command.

The current structure, commanded by the Commander in Chief Air Command is divided between three pillars: Operations; Personnel; and Strategy, Policy, Plans and Corporate Services.

A diagram of this structure is available from the RAF website at the following link:

http://www.raf.mod.uk/organisation/rafcommand.cfm

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to reduce the number of military and civilian personnel at RAF—HQ Air Command. [11773]

Nick Harvey: Headquarters Air Command is conducting a Capabilities and Structures Review which will align with the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Armed Conflict: Children

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on implementing the recommendations of the 25th Report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights Session 2008-09, HC 318, on children's rights, in respect of children and armed conflict; and if he will make a statement. [11103]

Mr Robathan: The recommendations were addressed as part of the Government Response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights Twenty-fifth Report of Session 2008-09 published on 3 March 2010 (HL Paper 65 HC 400). The Ministry of Defence has received no representations specifically on the implementation of the recommendations in respect of children and armed conflict.

Armed Forces: Food

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the two-year contract extension awarded by his Department to Purple Food Service Solutions was signed; and whether there was Ministerial approval of the contract. [10833]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence food supply contract with Purple Food Service Solutions was extended on 14 December 2009; the first of two available options to extend the contract by periods of two years. There was no requirement for Ministers to oversee the contract extension.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to commission a Ministry of Defence hospital unit in Scotland. [11343]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* There are currently no plans to extend the existing network of Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs).

Armed Forces: Housing

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces families have participated in his Department's Home Ownership pilot. [11126]

Mr Robathan: Currently there are 351 applicants to the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme (pilot) who have been assessed as being eligible in principle. Of these, 205 have progressed to the stage where they have been invited to speak to a financial adviser. There have been to date 22 completions.

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the future funding of the Home Ownership pilot; and if he will make a statement. [11129]

Mr Robathan: The Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme (pilot) is a shared equity scheme for service personnel who cannot otherwise afford to buy a home in the current housing market. It was launched as a four year pilot in January 2010 and like all other aspects of defence, will be evaluated and assessed as it progresses and as part of the current Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of armed forces personnel live off-base. [11366]

Mr Robathan: Armed forces personnel live in a variety of accommodation, both publicly provided and non-publicly provided, which may be on or off-base. While all personnel are required to record their Residence at Place of Duty Address on the Joint Personnel Administration system, there is no requirement to record whether the accommodation is located on or off-base. Therefore, this information is not held.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure that armed services personnel seriously injured on military operations are able to continue military careers. [10242]

Mr Robathan: Those who are injured deserve our greatest support. Our policies allow the services to retain those who have been seriously injured, if they wish to stay, for as long as there is a worthwhile role or it is judged to be in the interest of the individual and the service. When an individual can no longer undertake their current role, for medical reasons, they are able to look for other roles that they are medically capable of fulfilling. Where a job can be found, and they are either qualified or can be trained for the job, the individual may be transferred to that post.

Where a role cannot be found or it is in the interests of the individual and the armed forces, then an individual may be discharged on medical grounds. We will ensure that these men and women and their families have the care and support they require. Personnel may also be entitled to financial support from the Armed Forces Compensation scheme and an invaliding pension, where appropriate.

On 11 February, the Ministry of Defence launched the army recovery capability (ARC) along with its partners the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes. The ARC meets the needs of injured, wounded and sick personnel and helps these personnel either return to duty or make a smooth transition to civilian life, however long it takes. It focuses on the specific welfare, administrative and developmental needs of individuals during, in-between, or after their medical care, as well as providing support to their families where appropriate. This ensures there is an end-to-end system for enabling injured personnel to regain fitness for duty if possible, or to leave the services with the appropriate level of support, where this is more appropriate.

The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force also have their own bespoke recovery capabilities, tailored to their particular service's requirements.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 602W, on armed forces: mental health services, whether the findings of the study to be carried out by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) will be published; and when he expects that study to be concluded. [10427]

Mr Robathan: My hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) is conducting an independent study. His initial findings are currently under consideration and I expect them to be published shortly.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 602W, on armed forces: mental health services, (1) whether the medical discharge assessment for armed forces personnel undertaken 90 days prior to discharge is carried out on an individual basis; [10428]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of delivering F-Med-133 forms directly to GPs rather than to the individuals involved in order to reduce the risk of loss or misappropriation; [10429]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average length of time spent by doctors on a medical discharge assessment for armed forces personnel. [10431]

Mr Robathan: The aim of the discharge medical assessment is to assess and record the medical status and functional capacity at the time of discharge. It is conducted by a doctor during an individual, face to face consultation. The total time spent conducting these assessments can vary from case to case but typically lasts approximately 60 minutes. This currently includes a self-declaration, formal health check (including hearing and a comprehensive physical examination) and a review of all significant episodes of ill health during service.

The full assessment is recorded on an FMed 1 (signed by both the doctor and the patient) and summarised on an FMed 133. In most cases individuals still in service will not have re-registered with an NHS General Practitioner (GP) by the time of their Release Medical, and therefore the individual is provided with a copy of the FMed 133 to pass to their new NHS GP. The FMed 133 also provides the new NHS GP with a single service-specific address from where the individual's full medical records may be obtained, which includes the completed FMed 1 form. The individual must consent to the transfer of their FMed 133 form to their GP and to the GP having access to their service medical records.

The Defence Medical Services (DMS) is actively engaged with the Department of Health and the Royal College of General Practitioners to: assist individuals' re-registration with an NHS GP at discharge; to transfer the FMed 133 directly to the NHS GP incorporated into the registration process; to enhance the NHS' visibility of the ex-military population at the point of release; and to further smooth the transition of health care delivery from DMS to the NHS through direct correspondence between primary health care teams as required.

The Prime Minister has asked my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to carry out a study into the health of both serving and ex-service personnel to see what more can be done to assess and meet these needs; a focus of this study will be mental health. Decisions on what further work needs to be undertaken will necessarily depend on the results of my hon. Friend's study.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 602W, on armed forces: mental health services, whether any medical assessment is made of armed services personnel after their discharge. [10430]

Mr Robathan: All armed forces personnel receive a discharge medical assessment 90 days prior to discharge. The NHS is responsible for the health care needs of armed forces personnel after their discharge.

The Government are committed to providing effective, through-life, health services for our service and ex-service personnel. The Prime Minister has asked my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr. Murrison) to conduct an independent study into veterans' mental health issues.

The Ministry of Defence has contributed £500,000 towards the setting up and evaluation of NHS Veterans Community Mental Health Pilot schemes in six NHS Trusts around the country. Additionally, the Medical Assessment Programme at St Thomas' hospital in London is available to serving and former armed forces personnel who have deployed on operations since 1982. This offers comprehensive physical and mental health assessments for veterans who believe their ill health may be linked to service.

The Government have also recently confirmed an additional £2 million to allow the Department of Health to work with strategic partners, including Combat Stress, to promote access to services and ensure the best treatment possible is available for veterans with mental health problems.

Armed Forces: Officers

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many retired officers are on the list of active personnel; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of such listings in the latest period for which figures are available. [11365]

Mr Robathan: There are 29 retired officers who are on the list of active personnel. They are eligible for various allowances such as access to Service transport for duty visits, access to Service medical and dental facilities and funeral/memorial services.

The costs incurred by these individuals at such events are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the General Service Respirator to come into service; [11917]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the costs his Department will incur under its General Service Respirator contract. [11919]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence approved £63.9 million for the delivery of 300,000 sets of the General Service Respirator (GSR) in 2004. The GSR is expected to enter service over the summer; the project remains within its cost approval.

Armed Services: Discharges

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* early service leavers and *(b)* others have left each of the armed services in each year since 2005. [9183]

Mr Robathan: The numbers of early service leavers and others that have left each of the armed forces in each year since 2006 are listed in the following tables:

Financial year	*Royal Navy early service leavers*	*Army early service leavers*	*Royal Air Force early service leavers*
2006-07	1,860	5,240	522
2007-08	2,268	6,347	1,738
2008-09	2,248	5,261	949

Financial year	*Royal Navy other leavers*	*Army other leavers*	*Royal Air Force other leavers*
2006-07	2,460	10,530	4,548
2007-08	2,072	8,983	3,282
2008-09	2,182	7,879	3,371

Data for financial year 2005-06 are not held in the format requested but the totals across all armed forces are as follows:

	Financial year 2005-06
Early service leavers	10190
Other leavers	13070

Commonwealth Organisations

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which Commonwealth organisations his Department provides grant funding; and how much it has provided to each in each of the last 10 years. [10635]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence only grants funding to one Commonwealth organisation, which is the Commonwealth War Graves commission since 2000-01:

	£ million
2000-01	24
2001-02	24
2002-03	26
2003-04	29
2004-05	32
2005-06	31
2006-07	32
2007-08	34
2008-09	37

Industrial Capabilities: Defence

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what national industrial capabilities he has identified as requiring protection and retention for strategic military purposes. [11771]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) will form the baseline for determining the capabilities that we need, now and in the future. After the SDSR has been completed in the autumn, and before the end of the year, we intend to publish a Green Paper on our defence industry and technology policy. The Green Paper will build on the SDSR conclusions, and ongoing discussions with industry and others. There will then be a wider consultation process with Parliament, industry and academia before we bring forward a White Paper in spring 2011. This will formally set out our new approach to industry and technology, including setting out our sovereignty requirements and how we will seek to safeguard associated industrial technologies.

Defence Estates

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of Defence Estates; and if he will make a statement. [11422]

Mr Robathan: The Government are conducting a Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), covering all aspects of defence, including estates. The defence section of the SDSR will be finished in time to inform the comprehensive spending review on 20 October.

Defence Estates: Public Appointments

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the new head of Defence Estates will be appointed; and if he will make a statement. [10768]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* An announcement will be made in due course.

Defence: Procurement

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many urgent operational requirements have been commissioned to date; how many are in progress; what equipment is the subject of each such requirement; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such requirement; and when he expects each requirement in progress to be completed. [11770]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Between 2002-03 and June 2010, some 1,150 Urgent Operational Requirements (UORs) were approved, of which some 550 were for operations in Iraq and some 600 for operations in Afghanistan. Some UORs have been subject to re-approvals as requirements have evolved and some will have been provided in both theatres, so a single capability may be counted more than once in these numbers.

Some 290 UORs have been approved and are recorded as having a current financial liability. It would be inappropriate to list details of what equipment may be the subject of each of these UORs as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. The average cost of UORs approved last financial year (2009-10) was approximately £8 million. UOR timeframes reflect the operational urgency of the requirement—many deliver well within a year of the requirement being identified, and 18 months is the maximum planning horizon.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what joint procurement exercises his Department has with partners in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany. [11774]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Ministry of Defence's Collaborative Equipment Programmes list shows that the UK is engaged in the following equipment programmes with France and Germany, on both a bilateral and multilateral basis.

	Equipment programme
France	
Manufacture/ In-service	Olympus/Tyne Gas Turbines
	NATO Submarine Rescue System
	Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System
	Multiple Launch Rocket System In-Service Support
	NATO Armament Ballistics Kernel
	Counter Battery Radar (COBRA)
	Principal Anti Air Missile System (PAAMS)
	Lynx
	Puma
	Gazelle
	RTM322 Helicopter Engine
	NATO Improved Link Eleven
	NAVSTAR GPS
Demonstration	Meteor Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile
	A400M
	Functional Integration of Electro-Magnetic Sensors
	Future Anti-Surface Guided Weapon (Heavy)
Concept	ACCOLADE (Off-Board Active Decoy)
	40mm Cannon

	Equipment programme
Germany	
Manufacture/ In-service	Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System
	Multiple Launch Rocket System In-Service Support
	NATO Armament Ballistics Kernel
	Counter Battery Radar (COBRA)
	M3 Amphibious Bridge
	Sidewinder Air-to-Air Missile
	Typhoon
	Tornado
	NATO Improved Link Eleven
	NAVSTAR GPS
Demonstration	Meteor Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile
	A400M

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11380]

Peter Luff: Ten-day payment information currently available for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and its Trading Funds for all suppliers is provided in the following table.

Invoices paid within 10 days of receipt

	Percentage
April 2010	98.67

Since 1 May 2010, the Department began measuring performance against a target of payment within five working days. Data available against the new target are provided in the following table and are published on the MOD's website at:

www.mod.uk

Invoices paid within five days of receipt

	Percentage
May 2010	94.06
June 2010	95.47

Agreed terms of business would require the MOD to pay correctly presented invoices within 30 calendar days. MOD achievement against this target, excluding the Trading Funds, is provided in the following table.

Invoices paid within 30 days of receipt

	Percentage
April 2010	99.6
May 2010	99.6
June 2010	99.4

We have made no separate assessment of the time taken to pay small and medium-sized enterprises.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997; [7361]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997; [7511]

(3) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7631]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All expenditure must be necessary, appropriate, cost effective and an admissible charge to public funds.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9656]

Mr Robathan: There is extant, generic departmental guidance on the topic. Private offices may provide, on occasion, pointers on style for briefing particular Ministers—they do not issue separate instructions.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7612]

Mr Robathan: We operate four principal websites—one for the corporate Ministry of Defence (MOD) and one for each of the armed forces. Design costs are available for these websites from 2005-06.

£000

Financial year	*MOD corporate*	*Royal Navy*	*British Army*	*Royal Air Force*
2005-06	400	270	0	0
2006-07	0	0	266	120
2007-08	150	110	75	0
2008-09	0	0	0	0
2009-10	[1]418	298	25	215

[1] Includes the costs of the internal Defence intranet which are not recorded separately.

Other MOD websites are not managed centrally, and their cost could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

From 2009-10, the costs of the MOD corporate website will be published centrally in an annual report on central Government websites. The annual report for 2009-10 is available at the following link:

http://coi.gov.uk/aboutcoi.php?page=357

Information on the cost of the websites of our agencies and non-departmental public bodies will be included in the report from 2010-11.

On current plans, we plan to close a number of our smaller websites by 31 March 2011, both to save money and to improve the coherence and effectiveness of our web presence.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7574]

Mr Robathan: We estimated, as part of a Treasury benchmarking exercise, that our expenditure on legal services was in the region of £40 million in 2009-10. This figure includes the cost of the in-house legal team, and services provided by the Treasury Solicitor, Counsel, Parliamentary Counsel, private law firms and other legal consultants. The figure excludes the cost of non-Government Legal Service lawyers, such as the legal advisers to the three service branches, and the costs of legal services incurred by our Trading Funds, which lie outside our departmental accounting boundary.

Information on expenditure on legal advice is not held centrally and such information for previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8295]

Mr Robathan: The location of Ministry of Defence activity and plans for the Defence estate will be considered in the strategic defence and security review.

Departmental Official Cars

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of provision of official cars for *(a)* Ministers in his Department, *(b)* civil servants in his Department and *(c)* service chiefs was in the last 12 months. [1059]

Mr Robathan: The Government Car and Despatch Agency is responsible for providing the official car for use by the Secretary of State. Its 2009-10 cost, funded by the Ministry of Defence, is intended for publication by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport in due course. The estimated cost of providing official cars for use by other Defence Ministers in the same financial year was £218,000.

We report the cost of the use of official cars by senior officials under the Government's disclosure of senior staff business expenses regime for directors general and above. The 2009-10 estimated cost of their use was £301,000.

The figures represent how much we spent on running the vehicles, including the cost of the lease, driver, maintenance, servicing, consumables, fuel and the employer's contribution to benefits-in-kind taxation, where applicable.

Comparable figures are not available for the use of official cars by the service chiefs in 2009-10, but will be from 2010-11. Information is otherwise not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

MOD Ministers and staff may use an official car where this makes good business sense. We increasingly share cars for senior staff through pooling and other similar arrangements to increase flexibility and reduce cost. Official cars are an extension of the office and give Ministers and our most senior staff private space to work in so they can make more efficient use of time spent travelling.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3208]

Mr Robathan: As was the case under previous Governments, all service personnel, civil servants and special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Senior civil servants employed in our headquarters have given up their cars with a dedicated driver and share pool cars instead.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7979]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) incurred £698 for use of the Government Car Service between 12 May and 12 July 2010. The MOD generally uses its own car pool for providing a car service to our Ministers, senior officials and service officers.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7980]

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since January 2005; and how much each of those individuals has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [8255]

Mr Robathan: Information on Ministry of Defence (MOD) users of the Government Car Service is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. MOD Ministers and staff will normally use MOD pool cars where such a form of transport is necessary.

The Government publish, on a quarterly basis, the expenses incurred by our most senior officials. These include any use of the Government Car Service and other travel expenses. The MOD's disclosure of senior staff business expenses is available at:

www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/SeniorStaffBusinessExpenses.htm

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have been driven to the House of Commons by the Government Car Service in each year since 2005. [8352]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* Records are not held centrally therefore the answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, coalition Government Ministers are encouraged to walk, bicycle or take public transport where appropriate. The practice of driving Ministers from Portcullis House to MOD main building has been discontinued since the general election.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9894]

Mr Robathan: The remuneration paid to the Ministry of Defence's (MOD's) civil servants in 2009-10 was some £1.9 billion. This figure represents the costs of gross salary, overtime, performance related pay and taxable allowances for UK-based industrial and non-industrial civilian staff (including casuals), members of the MOD police and officers and ratings of the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.

Not included is remuneration to employees of our trading funds, which lie outside the MOD's departmental accounting boundary, or to contractors, agency staff and locally engaged civilians, who are not civil servants.

Information on remuneration, staff numbers and their cost of employment is published in our annual report and accounts each year. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and are available on the internet, at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

Departmental Private Education

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on continuity of education allowance at *(a)* Charterhouse School, *(b)* Dulwich College, *(c)* Eton College, *(d)* Harrow School, *(e)* Marlborough College, *(f)* Rugby School, *(g)* Westminster School, *(h)* Winchester College, *(i)* Cheltenham Ladies College, *(j)* Roedean School, *(k)* St Paul's School, *(l)* Fettes College and *(m)* Gordonstoun School in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [11452]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7468]

Mr Robathan: We hold information on expenditure on stationery and office supplies as follows, but have no breakdown below departmental level:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2003-04	28.8
2004-05	28.0
2005-06	29.5
2006-07	27.9
2007-08	22.8
2008-09	20.2
2009-10	22.6

The figures represent expenditure on stationery (excluding branded stationery) and office supplies (such as printer consumables and magnetic media) by the Department, the on-vote defence agencies and those advisory non-departmental bodies we sponsor. The figures do not include expenditure by our trading funds who do not call off the central contract and lie outside the departmental accounting boundary.

We use recycled paper and paper products as much as possible.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May 2010 and *(b)* June 2010. [8238]

Mr Robathan: As set out in the Ministerial Code, Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7593]

Mr Robathan: Our expenditure on electricity, water, heating and telephone services has been as follows:

£ million

Financial year	*Electricity*	*Water and sewerage*[1]	*Heating*[2]	*Telephone services*[3]
1997-98	124	46	50	138
1998-99	123	46	47	221
1999-2000	114	45	42	211
2000-01	107	44	46	248
2001-02	107	42	78	135
2002-03	92	41	82	154
2003-04	98	47	75	176
2004-05	114	62	94	131
2005-06	141	91	131	309
2006-07	171	98	126	348
2007-08	167	103	114	363

£ million

Financial year	*Electricity*	*Water and sewerage*[1]	*Heating*[2]	*Telephone services*[3]
2008-09	205	108	161	364

[1] From 2004-05, the costs include expenditure on Project Aquatrine, a private finance initiative contract for the management of the MOD's water and wastewater infrastructure.

[2] The costs include gas and solid fuel between 1997-98 and 2000-01 and gas and heating oil from 2001-02 on.

[3] The costs include line and telephone rental and minor equipment and, from 2005-06, the PF1 service charge for the Defence Fixed Telephone Service.

These figures represent expenditure by the Department, the on-vote defence agencies and those advisory non-departmental public bodies we sponsor. The figures do not include expenditure by our trading funds as they lie outside the departmental accounting boundary. We publish a figure for total expenditure for utilities in our annual report and accounts.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6875]

Mr Gerald Howarth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We comply with all relevant EU legislation where we have not been granted specific exemption from it, but we seek at all times to ensure that compliance does not exceed the minimum cost or constraint.

Ex-servicemen: Mental Illness

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* veterans and *(b)* veterans diagnosed with mental illness linked to their service are (i) imprisoned and (ii) on probation. [9237]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* The number of veterans in prison in England and Wales was announced in a written ministerial statement on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 7WS. The results of the follow-on work referred to in that statement will be announced shortly. Work to determine the number of ex-Service personnel on probation is currently ongoing, jointly with the Ministry of Justice. Information on the numbers of veterans in prison/probation diagnosed with mental illness linked to their service is not available.

The Government are committed to providing effective, through-life, health services for our Service and ex-Service personnel. The Prime Minister has asked my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr. Murrison) to conduct an independent study into the provision of Ministry of Defence and NHS support and services to the armed forces and ex-Service personnel and to make recommendations for improvement particularly in the area of mental health.

NHS Veterans Community Mental Health Pilot schemes have also been established in six NHS Trusts around the country. They are currently being evaluated with a report expected in the autumn. The findings of the evaluation report will inform broader rollout of veterans' mental health services across the NHS in 2011-12. Additionally, the Medical Assessment programme at St Thomas' Hospital in London is available to serving and former armed forces personnel who have deployed on operations since 1982.

The Government have also recently confirmed an additional £2 million to allow the Department of Health to work with strategic partners, including combat stress, to ensure the best treatment possible is available for veterans with mental health problems.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department's estimate that the cost to the public purse of paying equal pensions to Gurkha veterans who retired before 1 July 1997 would be £75 million per annum includes the pension settlements already distributed through the Gurkha pension scheme and the Gurkha Offer to Transfer project; [11589]

(2) whether expenditure on the Gurkha pension scheme will be included in the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [11590]

Mr Robathan: The cost of equalising pensions for Gurkhas at the same level as the Armed Forces Pension Scheme has been estimated by the Government Actuary's Department at approximately £1.5 billion, at 2007 prices, comprising a one-off payment of £500 million and £50 million each year for 20 years. However, this estimate does not include pension settlements already distributed through the Gurkha pension scheme and the Gurkha Offer to Transfer project

The spending review will look comprehensively across the whole of Government expenditure. All defence expenditure, including that on armed forces pensions, is considered in the review, and the annual amounts paid out under the Gurkha Pension Scheme are not separated out from overall Armed Forces Pension Scheme expenditure.

Low Flying

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many low-flying sorties pilots of the *(a)* German, *(b)* US, *(c)* Turkish, *(d)* Swedish, *(e)* Saudi Arabian, *(f)* Portuguese, *(g)* Polish, *(h)* Norwegian, *(i)* Dutch, *(j)* Italian, *(k)* Greek, *(l)* Danish, *(m)* Belgian, *(n)* Australian and *(o)* French air force carried out in UK air space in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [10799]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The figures are produced per training year and are based on usage by foreign based aircraft, not by the nationality of the pilot.

Military aircraft from other NATO and Allied Nations are permitted to make small-scale use of the UK Low Flying System, and the majority of foreign use is during NATO exercises that enable interoperability training to take place. Foreign aircraft are authorised to use the UK Low Flying System on a strictly reciprocal basis, and may only fly at heights that UK military aircraft could fly in their country. A prerequisite for using the UK Low Flying System is that all foreign crews are briefed by UK aircrew, and training sorties are planned on UK military mapping that shows all low flying avoidance areas. United States air force aircraft permanently based in the UK are not regarded as foreign visitors, but are subject to the same regulations as UK military aircraft. The figures are as follows:

	Foreign use (hours)	*Total (hours)*	*Percentage foreign use*
2004-05	397	76189	0.52
2005-06	558	75077	0.74
2006-07	312	65137	0.48
2007-08	168	58232	0.29
2008-09	329	51888	0.63
2009-10	208	57520	0.36

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many low-flying sorties Royal Air Force pilots carried out in *(a)* Turkish, *(b)* Swedish, *(c)* Spanish, *(d)* Saudi Arabian, *(e)* Portuguese, *(f)* Polish, *(g)* Norwegian, *(h)* Dutch, *(i)* Italian, *(j)* Danish, *(k)* Greek, *(l)* French, *(m)* Australian, *(n)* US, *(o)* German and *(p)* Belgian air space in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [10847]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Low Flying: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many compensation payments his Department made to individuals living in North and Mid Wales relating to the effects of low-flying sorties in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [10797]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 26 July 2010]*: Data relating to compensation claims arising from military aircraft low-flying activity are not held specifically for mid and north Wales. The recorded figures for Wales are as follows:

	Number of claims settled
2005	24
2006	15
2007	33
2008	21
2009	7

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints his Department received from individuals living in North and Mid Wales about low-flying sorties in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2008 and *(f)* 2009. [10798]

Mr Robathan: Complaints concerning low-flying military aircraft training are recorded by Low Flying Area (LFA). All of Wales, except the north east of Powys, lies within LFA 7. The following figures are the total amount of complaints received for the LFA, not individual complainants. The figures also include the Tactical Training Area 7T.

	Total amount of complaints received
2004	464
2005	436
2006	451
2007	375
2008	260
2009	302

Nepal: Armed Forces

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of local overseas living allowance is paid to *(a)* members of the armed forces serving in Nepal and *(b)* staff of the Gurkha Welfare Trust. [11588]

Mr Robathan: Local overseas allowance (LOA) is designed to contribute towards the necessary additional local cost of day-to-day living, when service personnel are required to serve overseas. LOA recognises the amount by which average essential expenditure on day-to-day living in a particular overseas location differs from that in the UK, taking into account the differences in the local lifestyle. The amount of LOA paid to members of the armed forces serving in Nepal is up to £20.48 (per day) depending on personal circumstances.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust is a registered charity, independent of the Ministry of Defence, which was established in 1969 to provide financial, medical and community aid to alleviate hardship and distress among Gurkhas when they leave the British Army. The Ministry of Defence has two full-time military personnel attached to the field arm of the trust in Nepal to run the Gurkha Welfare Scheme. However, the Ministry of Defence is not responsible for the pay of the trust's staff.

Piracy

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on intervening in the hijacking of UK-flagged merchant ships with British nationals on board; and if he will make a statement. [10441]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Navy can and will take robust action to come to the aid of any victim vessel under attack by pirates in international waters, regardless of flag, but cognisant of the potential threat to the lives of innocents on board.

International counter piracy operations are operating in close coordination with the shipping community to ensure merchant vessels are following best management practice on how to avoid, repel or stall pirate attacks, which gives warships the time to respond appropriately to any distress signals.

Portsmouth Dockyard: Security

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to reduce his Department's expenditure on security provisions at the Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth. [11233]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The cross-Government Strategic Defence and Security Review intends to bring defence policy, plans, commitments and resources into balance, and to produce, over time, a transformative change to British defence. This is a wide-ranging review which will examine all aspects of defence, including support services such as security at military establishments. The Review will be published in the autumn.

RAF Menwith Hill

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost of Operation Phoenix at RAF Menwith Hill; and who bears the cost of that operation. [11870]

Nick Harvey: The works associated with Project Phoenix at RAF Menwith Hill are funded by the US authorities. The most recent estimate of the cost is some £52 million, which includes £39.5 million of enabling works.

Somalia: Piracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on tackling piracy around the Horn of Africa in the last 12 months. [8836]

Nick Harvey: Combating piracy is one of a number of concurrent tasks carried out by Royal Navy units around the Horn of Africa. Therefore, the cost of the British Naval deployments, the associated costs and contributions to multinational task forces and the UK command and control elements could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Submarines

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has assessed the merits of delivering the first boat in the Vanguard-successor class submarines before the completion of the final boats of the Astute-class order. [9781]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* The Astute and successor programmes are subject to the Strategic Defence and Security Review and value for money studies respectively.

Decisions regarding delivery schedules will be made on completion of both these studies, and will ensure a sustainable industrial programme to allow the retention and transfer of key industrial capabilities.

War Graves

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which maritime war grave sites in UK waters were designated in the last five years. [11551]

Mr Robathan: The following 28 wrecked vessels were in military service when lost and, lying in UK waters, have been designated under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 since 1 January 2005.

Military Remains Act 1986 since 1 January 2005:

Sites	
Protected sites	
HMS Acheron	1 May 2008
HMS Blackwood	1 November 2006
HMS Boadicea	1 November 2006
HMS Bullen	1 November 2006
HMS Calgarian	1 February 210
HMS Delight	1 May 2008
HMS Exmoor	1 November 2006
HMS Fisgard II	1 February 210
HMS Ghurka	1 May 2008
HMSK4	1 November 2006
HMS K17	1 November 2006
HMT Kurd	1 February 210
HMS L24	1 May 2008
HMS Loyalty	1 May 2008
HMS M1	1 November 2006
HMS M2	1 November 2006
SS Mendi	1 February 210
HMS Pathfinder	1 February 210
HMS Penylan	1 May 2008
SS Storaa	1 May 2008
HMS Swordfish	1 November 2006
HMS Umpire	1 November 2006
HMS Vandal	1 November 2006
HMS Vortigern	1 November 2006
HMS Warwick	1 November 2006
U714	1 May 2008
UB65	1 November 2006
Controlled sites	
UB81	1 November 2006

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituency Sizes

5. **Karen Lumley:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects his proposals for fewer and more equal-sized constituencies to be implemented. [11078]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill would require the Boundary Commissions to submit a report before 1 October 2013. Parliament would then be asked to agree an Order bringing new boundaries into force at the next General Election, which is planned for 7 May 2015.

Urban Constituency Sizes: Scotland

6. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what criteria will apply to redrawing of the boundaries of urban parliamentary constituencies in Scotland under his proposals for fewer and more equal-sized constituencies. [11079]

Mr Harper: The rules set out in the parliamentary voting system and Constituencies Bill introduced on 22 July will apply to the boundaries of urban parliamentary constituencies in Scotland as they will across the rest of the UK.

Referendum: Timing

7. **Chris Leslie:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the merits of holding the proposed referendum on the voting system for election to the House of Commons on a date other than 5 May 2011. [11080]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The date of 5 May 2011 is the best date for the referendum on AV. Combining with other polls on the same day saves money, increases turnout and minimises inconvenience to voters.

Constituencies: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the oral statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-5W, on political and constitutional reform, whether the implementation of his proposals for boundary changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales will be dependent on the outcome of the proposed referendum on the transfer of legislative powers under Part 4 of the Government of Wales Act 2006. [10210]

Mr Harper: The Government's proposals for more equal constituency sizes for the House of Commons will ensure that votes have more equal weight. The implementation of these proposals will not be dependent on the outcome of the proposed referendum under the Government of Wales Act 2006. The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill does take account of the link between parliamentary constituencies and Welsh Assembly Government constituencies; the link between the two will be broken so that fewer parliamentary constituencies in future would not lead to a concomitant reduction in the size of the Assembly.

Constituency Size

Mr Reid: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reason he has proposed exceptions to a general proposal that each future parliamentary constituency must have a population of registered electors within five per cent. of a target quota. [11845]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill was introduced on 22nd July and sets out revised rules for the distribution of seats. Rule 2 provides that the electorate of any constituency must be within 95% to 105% of the United Kingdom electoral quota. There are only three possible exceptions:

> Rule 6 preserves the existing constituencies of Orkney and Shetland and Na h-Eileanan an Iar. These constituencies have small populations and are not easily reached from the mainland. They have already been recognised either in legislation or in practice in previous boundary reviews as justifying particular treatment. We have concluded therefore that exceptions for these areas are justified by their particular geography.
>
> Rule 4 requires that no constituency will be larger than 13,000 square kilometres and that a constituency larger than 12,000 square kilometres would not have to be within 95% of the UK electoral quota, if a Boundary Commission is satisfied that it is not reasonably possible for the constituency to comply with Rule 2. This rule would not, however result in additional representation for a part of the UK where it was applied and all other constituencies in that part of the UK must be within 95-105% of the UK electoral quota. Rule 4 simply aims to prevent extremely geographically large constituencies from having to be created in sparsely populated areas in order to meet the parity requirements.
>
> Rule 7 applies only to Northern Ireland. Because a whole number of constituencies must be allocated to each part of the UK, the average number of electors in each constituency in each part of the UK will be different from the UK electoral quota. This difference might have a particular impact in Northern Ireland due to the small size of the electorate, and might unfairly constrain the ability of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland (BCNI) to take account of other factors set out in the Bill, such as geography and local ties. The size of the other parts of the UK make this problem manageable elsewhere. The Bill therefore provides that if the rounding effect is of a particular magnitude, and the BCNI considers that either their ability to take other factors into account or to complete the review within the deadline set out in the Bill would be unreasonably impaired, then the BCNI may propose constituencies that vary from the UK electoral quota by a fixed amount (the difference between the UK electoral quota and the electorate of Northern Ireland divided by the number of seats allocated to Northern Ireland).

Iraq Conflict: Legal Opinion

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he took advice from the Attorney-General on making reference to the legal status of the invasion of Iraq before doing so during Prime Minister's Questions on 21 July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [11576]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I am happy to confirm that my comments in the House on 21 July 2010 represented my long-held personal view on the legality of the war in Iraq. It is a view I have expressed in public many times before.

Legislation: Public Consultation

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he has taken to ensure that people without internet access can participate in his Your Freedom consultation exercise. [10417]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government welcome interest in the Your Freedom consultation from all groups in society. Some of these may not have access to the internet, but there are a number of options available from the Government to help them get online. The publicity materials for Your Freedom, stated:

> "If you don't know how to use the internet but would like to be involved in the engagement, call 0800 77 1234 to find your nearest UK online centre. UK online centres are a network of free computer centres across England that offer people help and support to access and use computers and the internet."

To support the partnership with UK online, fliers, posters and guidance notes were produced which the 3,500 UK online centres can use to promote the Your Freedom dialogue and to encourage participation. Although the Your Freedom consultation is specifically an on-line consultation this does not preclude those wishing to contribute ideas to Government from doing so through written correspondence.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Wages Board

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board on the UK's compliance with the provisions of International Labour Organisation Convention No. 129. [11591]

Mr Paice: The UK has not ratified the International Labour Organisation Convention 129 and is therefore not bound by its terms. However, even if the Convention were binding on the UK, the Government consider that its proposal to bring agricultural workers within the scope of the national minimum wage framework would provide an adequate replacement for the agricultural wage regime in terms of the requirements of the Convention.

Any decision to ratify the Convention would be for Ministers in the Department of Work and Pensions.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of workers whose pay and terms and conditions were set by the Agricultural Wages Board in each *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [11592]

Mr Paice: The numbers of agricultural workers whose minimum terms and conditions are set by the Agricultural Wages Board are 139,640[1] in England and 12,840[2] in Wales.

Regional and constituency figures are not available for workers in Wales. Figures for England will be placed in the Library of the House.

[1] *Source:*

DEFRA June Survey of Agriculture 2009

[2] *Source:*

June Survey of Agriculture, Wales

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the terms and conditions currently set by the Agricultural Wages Board will not be set by the provisions of the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 after the abolition of the Board. [11593]

Mr Paice: The majority of the terms and conditions currently set by the Agricultural Wages Board, such as a minimum rate of pay, holiday entitlement, sick pay and rest breaks will in future be covered by the minimum entitlements for such matters specified under the National Minimum Wage Act or specified by other relevant employment legislation such as the Working Time Regulations or the Statutory Sick Pay Rules.

The National Minimum Wage Act and the Working Time Regulations do not make provision for the following entitlements which are currently covered by the Agricultural Wages Order:

Specific rates of pay for overtime

Standby duty and night allowance

Entitlement to bereavement leave

Birth or adoption grant (currently of £60 per child)

Dog allowance

The Agricultural Wages Order makes specific provision for:

Apprentice under the age of 19, or in the first year of their apprenticeship

Workers of compulsory school age

Students on a work placement of less than one year

Specific provision for these categories of workers is not made under the National Minimum Wage legislation. However, such persons are entitled to employment rights and protections under the Working Time Regulations and the legislation dealing specifically with the employment of children and young people.

It is also important to note that the terms of a worker's employment contract which exist at the time the Agricultural Wages Board is abolished will continue to apply until such time as the contract is varied by agreement between the employer and the worker, or until the contract comes to an end. This is the case whether the terms are written, verbally agreed or implied by custom and practice. If an employer makes changes to the terms of employment without the worker's agreement, this constitutes a breach of contract. The worker may have a claim for breach of contract, unfair dismissal or unlawful deduction of wages if the change relates to pay.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions Ministers in her Department had with representatives of agricultural workers prior to her announcement that the Agricultural Wages Board is to be abolished. [11594]

Mr Paice: There have been no specific discussions, but views of the representatives of the two sides of the Agricultural Wages Board have been well known for many years. I have spoken to Ian Waddell, the leader of the workers' side to explain the reasons for the Government's decision, which are that the agricultural wages legislation is outdated, inflexible and imposes regulatory burdens on farmers which are often small businesses. I firmly believe that by lifting the cumbersome requirements of the agricultural wage framework, the industry will be better able to attract new and young entrants to the industry and to meet the challenges of 21st century farming and increasing domestic food production. The abolition of the Board will require amendments to primary legislation and therefore will be subject to proper parliamentary scrutiny and debate.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the consent of the Welsh Assembly Government is required to abolish the Agricultural Wages Board in England. [11653]

Mr Paice: The Government fully intend to act in agreement with Welsh Assembly Government colleagues on agricultural wages policy issues in Wales and will bring forward proposals for Wales together with the proposals to give effect to the policy in England to bring agricultural wages in England within the national minimum wages regime. A legislative consent motion before the National Assembly for Wales is not required in these circumstances.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives of trade unions representing workers who are covered by the Agricultural Wages Board on her plans for the future of that Board. [12009]

Mr Paice: There have been no specific discussions, but views of the representatives of the two sides of the Agricultural Wages Board have been well known for many years. I have spoken to Ian Waddell, the leader of the workers' side to explain the reasons for the Government's decision, which is that the agricultural wages legislation is outdated, inflexible and imposes regulatory burdens on farmers which are often small businesses. I firmly believe that by lifting the cumbersome requirements of the agricultural wage framework, the industry will be better able to attract new and young entrants to the industry and to meet the challenges of 21st century farming and increasing domestic food production. The abolition of the Board will require amendments to primary legislation and therefore will be subject to proper parliamentary scrutiny and debate.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council: Devolution

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Scottish Executive on the attendance of representatives of the devolved administrations at meetings of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council. [11289]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State and I met recently with Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment at the Scottish Executive. One of the issues discussed was devolved Administration Ministers' attendance at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, on the Rural Payments Agency, whether the Rural Payments Agency met its performance targets on payments to farmers for 2009-10; and what the monetary value of such payments was in each month between December 2009 and March 2010. [10835]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) met both components of its ministerial target To have paid 75% by value of valid Single Payment Scheme 2009 scheme claims by 31 January 2010 and 90% by value of valid 2009 claims by 31 March 2010—five and six weeks ahead of the target dates.

RPA also met the EU requirement to pay 95.238% of the SPS 2009 fund value by end of June 2010 during the week commencing 19 April 2010—ten weeks ahead of the target date.

The monetary values—of payments made to farmers under the Single Payment Scheme (England only) between December 2009 and 31 March 2010 are as follows:

Month	*Paid in month £ million*
December	1,448.6
January	118.1
February	120.1
March	70.0

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many Single Payment Scheme claims made in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 remain outstanding; [11022]

(2) by what date she expects all outstanding Single Payment Scheme claims from previous years to have been resolved. [11023]

Mr Paice: The following table sets out the number of outstanding payments for the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) in years 2008 and 2009 in England.

SPS year	*Number of claims outstanding as at 14 July 2010*	*Percentage of the claimant population outstanding as at 14 July 2010*
2008	63	[1]0.006
2009	228	[2]0.212
Total	291	—

[1] Based on an estimated total claimant population of 106,500.

[2] Based on an estimated total claimant population of 107,500.

Included within this total of outstanding claims are 180 (53 in 2008 and 127 in 2009) cases involving probate, business partnership changes and domestic issues. Some of these may result in no payment being due but the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) keeps those farmers who have a legitimate outstanding payment aware of the progress in processing their claims.

The remaining 111 claims are mainly awaiting customer information or are being processed through over payment and entitlement correction actions.

Thirty-five Single Payment Scheme claims from 2005-07 remain to be paid. Most of these cases involve probate or legal issues for which we rely on information from external parties. We cannot therefore predict when deceased claimants' estates will be settled and legal confirmation will be given of the correct recipient of the funds.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on prosecutions for non-payment of fines relating to the Single Payment Scheme brought by the Crown Prosecution Service. [11104]

Mr Paice: None. There are no legislative provisions for issuing fines under the Single Payment Scheme. However, the EU rules governing the administration of the scheme do provide for a series of reductions and exclusions to be applied to payments where over claims are made. Where it is not possible to recover any overpayments made through deductions from subsequent payments to the relevant claimants, civil law remedies may be applied.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Rural Payments Agency has paid out under the Single Payment Scheme in each year since 2005. [11795]

Mr Paice: Payments made by the Rural Payments Agency in relation to the Single Payment Scheme are presented by scheme year in the following table.

Scheme year	*Payments made (£ million)*
2005	1,573.60
2006	1,634.28
2007	1,460.23
2008	1,639.21
2009	1,871.96

The table details payments made up to 30 June 2010. The figures exclude Single Payment Scheme payments made by other paying agencies.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 560W, on bovine tuberculosis: disease control (1) whether the *(a)* culling and *(b)* vaccination options under consideration include any to be (i) funded by an industry levy and (ii) implemented by farmers; [11034]

(2) when she expects to announce her proposals on bovine tuberculosis. [11035]

Mr Paice: The coalition has committed, as part of a package of measures, to develop affordable options for a carefully-managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine TB.

We are currently developing proposals which we plan to publish for public consultation in the autumn.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Wales

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 560W, on bovine tuberculosis disease control, whether she has made an assessment of the effect of the recent court ruling in Wales in respect of the Welsh Assembly Government's plan for the use of badger control measures as part of its bovine tuberculosis strategy. [11064]

Mr Paice: We are studying the Court of Appeal's ruling on the Badger Trust's appeal against the Judicial Review of the Welsh Assembly Government's badger control policy.

Coastal Erosion: Listed Buildings

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to protect listed buildings under threat from coastal erosion. [9528]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

Government policy on managing coastal change, including the impact of coastal erosion on heritage assets, is set out in 'Adapting to Coastal Change: Developing a Policy Framework', which was published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in March 2010.

This was developed in partnership with DCMS and with advice from English Heritage, the Government's statutory advisers on the historic environment, and can be found online here:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/manage/coastalchange-policyframework.pdf

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in her Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9664]

Richard Benyon: Guidance to officials is placed on the DEFRA intranet and updated from time to time. I am arranging for copies of the current guidance to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7503]

Richard Benyon: This information is not held centrally and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All public expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety. Subject to those principles business areas have discretion over purchasing having regard to the evaluation of alternative options and value for money considerations.

Departmental Internet

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on search engine biasing with (i) Google and (ii) other search engines in each of the last five years. [10013]

Richard Benyon: The Department spent £319,792 and £149,710 on paid search in financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. We are unable to break these figures down by search engine as the Central Office of Information does not hold that level of detail.

Figures for financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

There was no spend by DEFRA's Executive agencies on paid search in the same time period.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7623]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA (including its Executive agencies), and its non-departmental public bodies Natural England and Commission for Rural Communities spent £36,448.76 on light bulbs since 1 April 2009. Information for previous years and other NDPBs not listed, including the Environment Agency, is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10111]

Richard Benyon: In May, Ministers hosted a stakeholder event at which hospitality (at a cost of £816) was provided. In the months of May and June, Ministers have hosted no other events at which they provided hospitality at departmental expense.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to reduce the running costs of her Department since her appointment. [9605]

Richard Benyon: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough (Mr Blunkett) 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 456W, which sets out how DEFRA is making £162 million in savings in 2010-11 as part of the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May of wider public expenditure reductions in 2010-11.

Further information about these savings is available on the DEFRA website at the

following link:

http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/about/corporate-finances

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7371]

Richard Benyon: Expenditure on security covers a wide array of issues, including guarding contracts, physical barriers, CCTV, specialist lighting, staff training, information security, personnel vetting and IT encryption, as well as the cost of security teams. Funding for security is not recorded separately.

Budgets are devolved to agencies and non-departmental public bodies who then apply them as required. To extract security costs separately from other costs would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee training in each year since 1997. [7642]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is not held centrally, as training budgets are delegated to divisions and individual managers within the Department. As a consequence the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by *(a)* her and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8230]

Richard Benyon: As set out in the ministerial code Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Further travel related costs can be found in the replies to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 15W, and the hon. Member for York Central (Hugh Bayley) of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 704W.

Environment Agency

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals for a formal review of the Environment Agency's policy priorities. [11339]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* DEFRA is currently carrying out a review of its arm's length bodies as part of the Government's commitment to reforming public bodies. We are also currently examining all the Department's expenditure and priorities, including that of the Environment Agency and other bodies, as part of the spending review which is due to conclude on 20 October.

EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions in each year since July 1999 Ministers in the Scottish Executive have *(a)* attended, *(b)* spoken on behalf of the UK and *(c)* taken the lead in meetings of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council to discuss (i) agriculture items and (ii) fisheries items. [11347]

Mr Paice: Ministers from the Scottish Executive regularly attend meetings of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council. In line with the concordat/memorandum of understanding with devolved Administrations, the UK Minister speaks on behalf of the UK on agriculture and fisheries issues at council.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 456W, on departmental public expenditure, from *(a)* what areas and *(b)* which projects the expected saving in flood management will be made. [11761]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has agreed the changes in the regional programmes (resulting from the in-year savings) with Regional Flood Defence Committees. These will not impact on the delivery of construction projects due to finish this year.

The Environment Agency is significantly ahead of its target to protect households. It is on course to deliver better protection to at least 160,000 households by March 2011, against a target of 145,000.

The areas where expenditure has been reduced, resulting in £30 million in-year savings in flood management are: project costs (£26.2 million), strategic assessments (£2 million) and operational activity (£1.8 million).

The following table shows the schemes which contribute to the £30 million in-year spending cuts for 2010/11 and the Regional Flood Defence Committee areas in which they are located.

RFDC	*Projects*
Anglian Central	Godmanchester FD Improvement Scheme
Anglian Central	Ouse Washes
Anglian Central	Thetford No 1 Sluice
Anglian Central	Welmore Lake Sluice Pump Improvements
Anglian Eastern	Ipswich M&E
Anglian Eastern	Wallasea Island
Anglian Northern	Humber Tetney to Saltfleet 1&2
Anglian Northern	Wisbech Defences
Midlands	Sheepwash Repairs
Midlands	Childswickham and Murcot
Midlands	Upton Upon Severn
Midlands	Gunness
Midlands	Newark FAS
Midlands	Gainsborough Frontages
North West	Didsbury Flood Basin Drainage imps
Northumbria	Blyth Sea Defences
Southern	Cleve Hill Land Purchase
Thames	Salmons Brook FAS
Thames	B&D Frontage; R006 01 La Porte Chemicals
Thames	CAP Refurbishment Prog Thames
Thames	Graveney Channel Fencing and Future Maintain HandS
Thames	R Brent Remedials
Thames	R Crane Remedials
Thames	Regional FW Telemetry: Phase VII
Thames	B&C Package 2 - 6 EA Bridges - ncpms
Thames	Benson Weir Walkways
Thames	Poyle Channel Improvements
Thames	B&C Package 1 - 3 Non EA Bridges
Thames	B&C Package 3 -10 EA Bridges
Thames	Osney Depot Dry Dock Gates
Thames	Greenwich Package 14
Thames	Rainham Creek Dam E017
Yorkshire	Donna Nook
Yorkshire	Catterick
Yorkshire	River Spen

Floods: Gloucestershire

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to take a decision on authorising the land purchase in connection with the Horsbere Brook Flood Prevention Scheme at Longlevens and Elmbridge in Gloucestershire; and if she will make a statement. [11548]

Richard Benyon: Terms and conditions are being agreed between the Environment Agency and the landowner. The Environment Agency expects to be in a position to secure the land in August 2010.

Food Standards Agency

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on machinery of government changes, what criteria were used in reaching the decision on the future role of the Food Standards Agency. [11624]

Mr Paice: The criteria were that food safety should remain independent of Government, but that wider food policy issues should not. It follows that wider food policy for England, where not concerning food safety, has been transferred from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department of Health. These changes will allow the FSA to focus on its core remit: ensuring all aspects of food safety, underpinned by scientific expertise.

Food: Labelling

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on Machinery of Government changes, what assessment she has made of the effects on the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing level of her Department of the change to her Department's responsibilities in respect of food labelling. [10837]

Mr Paice: We are finalising staff numbers and associated budget but approximately 25 labelling and food composition policy posts will be moving to DEFRA.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on Machinery of Government changes, when she expects to publish details of her Department's new responsibilities in respect of food labelling. [10838]

Mr Paice: As set out in the press release published on the DEFRA website on 20 July, DEFRA is now responsible for:

> policy on food labelling, where this does not relate to food safety or nutrition. This includes country of origin labelling;
>
> policy on food composition standards and labelling, where unrelated to food safety;
>
> leading within Government on the EU Food Information Regulation and other EU negotiations on food labelling except for safety or nutrition aspects.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on Machinery of Government changes, what criteria will be used to determine those aspects of food labelling and food composition policy which are the responsibility of her Department. [10839]

Mr Paice: For England, policy on food labelling and food composition, other than that relating to nutrition or to food safety, has been transferred to DEFRA, and policy relating to nutrition labelling will transfer to the

Department of Health. These changes will allow the FSA to focus on its core remit: ensuring all aspects of food safety, underpinned by scientific expertise.

The changes will strengthen food policy in DEFRA and support the Government's commitment to give consumers better information on where their food comes from.

Food: Standards

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 6W, on food: standards, what recommendations the task force has made to her Department; what assistance she has provided to the task force since her appointment; and if she will make a statement. [10989]

Mr Paice: The Fruit and Vegetables Task Force presented its interim report to DEFRA Ministers in June 2010. I have since attended the task force's last meeting on 30 June to discuss the interim proposals and have asked the task force to continue its work. The task force's proposals will be published in due course.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 6W, on food: standards, when the task force will next meet. [10990]

Mr Paice: The Fruit and Vegetables Task Force is expected to meet next in the early autumn. The task force's three subgroups will continue to meet over the summer.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 6W, on food: standards, which body will take up the responsibilities of the Food Standards Agency in respect of the fruit and vegetable task force. [10991]

Mr Paice: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has been represented on both the Fruit and Vegetables Task Force and its consumption subgroup. In future the Department of Health will take up the FSA's positions on the task force and subgroup.

Forests: Stockton on Tees

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether Thornaby woods in Stockton South constituency is classified as ancient woodland. [10742]

Mr Paice: Thornaby Wood is shown as ancient woodland on the Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory for England. However, new woodland creation has taken place to the north and south of the ancient woodland area.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research projects involving genetically-modified *(a)* crops, *(b)* food and *(c)* feed her Department has funded since 1997; what the (i) topic, (ii) start date, (iii) cost and (iv) project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8027]

Mr Paice: The following table lists research projects commissioned by DEFRA or its predecessors relating to GM crops, food and feed. It does not include some projects that were completed before the establishment of DEFRA in 2001, for which details are not readily available. Most of the DEFRA projects in this area relate to the risk assessment of GM organisms and the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops, rather than the development of GM crops as such.

DEFRA research projects involving genetically modified crops, food and feed

Code	*Title*	*Contractor*	*DEFRA costs (£)*	*Start*	*End*
CE0158	Transformation of wheat by Agrobacterium co-cultivation	Rothamsted Research (BBSRC)	88,434	1 April 1998	31 March 2000
CE0161	Agrobacterium mediated transformation of oats	Institute of Grassland and Environment Research	82,059	1 May 1998	30 April 2000
AR1001	Scale-up of Agrobacterium mediated transformation of oats to detect low frequency stable integrations	Institute of Grassland and Environment Research	46,987	1 October 2000	30 September 2001
AR1002	Genetic transformation of wheat using Agrobacterium tumifaciens	Rothamsted Research (BBSRC)	56,372	1 October 2000	30 September 2001
AR1003	Reproducible Agrobacterium-mediated transformation systems for wheat and barley	John Innes Centre (BBSRC)	60,271	1 October 2000	30 September 2001
CE0159	Development of a routine system for Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of barley	De Montfort University, Dept of Applied	150,143	1 December 1998	30 September 2001

DEFRA research projects involving genetically modified crops, food and feed

Code	*Title*	*Contractor*	*DEFRA costs (£)*	*Start*	*End*
CE0173	Nuclear and plastid transformation of wheat and tritordeum using the streptomycin—selectable aadA marker gene	The University of Manchester	149,635	1 October 1998	30 September 2001
HH2119SSF	Control of transgene expression in strawberry	Horticulture Research International	206,398	1 October 1998	30 September 2001
HH1616SPC	Modification of chrysanthemum growth habit thorough genetic manipulation	Horticulture Research International	228,172	1 September 1998	30 November 2001
CB02015	Implementing Directive 2001/18/EC—information requirements	People, Science and Policy Ltd	24,915	1 October 2001	31 January 2002
HH3706STF	Examination of gusA transgene expression in the fruit of transgenic apple plants driven by plant promotors	Horticulture Research International	29,398	19 November 2001	31 March 2002
HL0110LFV	Genetic modification of Brassica oleracea for resistance to turnip and cauliflower mosiac viruses	Horticulture Research International	180,956	1 October 1998	31 March 2002
HH1020THN	Genetic modification of rootstocks for disease resistance in rose	University of Nottingham	274,772	1 December 1998	30 April 2002
CB02007	Impact of Bt exudates from roots of GM plants	Forest Research Station (Alice Holt)	37,669	1 July 2001	1 June 2002
CE0171	Gene regulation in transgenic wheat including methods to increase expression and/or reduce variation in expression	John Innes Centre (BBSRC)	277,947	1 January 1999	30 June 2002
HH0909SFV	Genetics of transformation and regeneration in horticultural brassicas	John Innes Centre (BBSRC)	298,195	1 February 1999	31 July 2002
CB02014	Impacts of contemporary and alternative arable cropping systems	Natural Environment Research Council (Central Office)	44,654	15 April 2002	31 October 2002
CS0119	Digestion and absorption of feed components in broilers	ADAS UK Ltd.	230,798	1 May 2001	31 October 2002
CB02010	Modelling effects on farmland food webs of herbicide and insecticide management I	University of East Anglia	150,564	10 December 2001	30 November 2002
AR1004	An investigation into strategies to improve pea transformation	John Innes Centre (BBSRC)	73,405	1 January 2001	31 March 2003
HH0915SMU	Molecular analysis of integrative transformants of the mushroom	Horticulture Research International	343,209	1 April 2000	31 March 2003
CB02001	Farm-scale evaluations of GM beet and farmland wildlife	Natural Environment Research Council (Central Office)	1,460,288	1 June 2000	31 March 2003
CB02003	Farm-scale evaluations of GM spring oilseed rape and wildlife	Scottish Crop Research Institute	1,307,068	9 April 1999	31 March 2003
CB02022	Supply chain impacts of further regulation of products consisting of, containing or derived from GMOs	LMC International	72,944	1 May 2003	11 July 2003
CB02011	Compositional traits—effect on GM survivability and persistence	Atkins Environment	49,945	11 February 2002	31 July 2003
CB02012	Modelling effects on farmland food webs of herbicide and insecticide management II	Natural Environment Research Council (Central Office)	138,512	3 January 2002	31 July 2003

DEFRA research projects involving genetically modified crops, food and feed

Code	*Title*	*Contractor*	*DEFRA costs (£)*	*Start*	*End*
CE0172	Use of maize and rice MAR sequences to stabilise the expression of transgenes in wheat	Rothamsted Research (BBSRC)	327,161	19 December 1999	31 December 2003
CB02030	Support for the British Ornithologists' Union conference on GM crops and birds	British Ornithologist's Union	10,000	5 February 2004	6 February 2004
CB02008	Impact of transgenes for herbivore and virus resistance	Natural Environment Research Council (Central Office)	396,428	1 April 1999	30 March 2004
CB02027	GM crop farm-scale evaluation results presentations and open meetings	Lewislive Ltd	60,105	15 September 2003	31 March 2004
HH0910SFV	New techniques for genetic improvement of horticultural brassicas.	Horticulture Research International	1,323,082	1 April 1999	31 March 2004
HH0911SFV	Genetic improvement of lettuce	Horticulture Research International	841,013	1 April 1999	31 March 2004
HH1031SSF	Tissue and plastid targeted transgene expression in a perennial plant, strawberry	Horticulture Research International	393,734	1 November 2000	31 March 2004
CB02004	Farm-scale evaluations of GM winter oilseed rape and wildlife	Rothamsted Research (BBSRC)	1,305,999	9 April 1999	31 March 2004
CB02018	Determining risks to soil organisms associated with a genetically modified crop expressing a biopesticide in its roots	University of Leeds	36,882	1 October 2000	30 April 2004
CB02002	Farm-scale evaluations of GM maize and farmland wildlife	Natural Environment Research Council (Central Office)	1,643,331	9 April 1999	30 April 2004
CB02023	Estimate consumer willingness to pay for reducing or eliminating GM products or derivatives in food and increasing robustness of the labelling regime	The University of Manchester	94,550	22 April 2003	30 April 2004
CB02031	Evaluation of the organisation and management of the GM farm-scale evaluations	Institute of Grassland and Environment Research	16,000	18 March 2004	18 June 2004
CB02006	Gene flow monitoring: herbicide resistance genes to wild crop relatives	Natural Environment Research Council (Central Office)	337,481	10 May 2000	30 June 2004
CB02024	Mechanisms for investigating changes in soil ecology due to GMO releases	Atkins Environment	49,784	16 June 2003	30 June 2004
CB02038	GM co-existence consultation—support for workshops	New Game-Plan Ltd	10,431	28 August 2004	16 September 2004
CB02029	The statistical theory and analysis of GMO enforcement	Central Science Laboratory	24,779	1 June 2004	29 October 2004
AR0911	Smart plant technology for sensing crop nutritional status	Rothamsted Research (BBSRC)	209,608	1 December 2001	30 November 2004
CB02016	Assessment of the distribution of GM material in kernel lots	Central Science Laboratory	35,020	12 December 2002	31 December 2004
HH2116SMU	Mushroom quality-loss after harvest—causes and control	University of Warwick	397,220	1 April 2001	31 March 2005
CB02017	Non-target effects of transgenic crop plants resistant to virus diseases	John Innes Centre (BBSRC)	18,327	1 July 2000	30 April 2005

DEFRA research projects involving genetically modified crops, food and feed

Code	*Title*	*Contractor*	*DEFRA costs (£)*	*Start*	*End*
CB02013	Biodiversity effects of management associated with GM cropping systems	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	37,064	15 April 2002	12 September 2005
CB02021	Strategies for risk assessment, minimising the environmental impact of fungal disease-suppressing GM bacteria and plants on non-target species (was RG0126)	Natural Environment Research Council (Central Office)	355,400	1 April 2002	30 September 2005
CB02005	Monitoring gene flow from the GM crop to non-GM equivalent crops in the vicinity	Central Science Laboratory	248,596	1 June 2000	30 September 2005
CB02045	Detection and traceability technologies to underpin GM inspection and enforcement	Central Science Laboratory	66,082	1 April 2003	30 September 2005
CB02046	Plasmid standards for real time PCR and UKAS accreditation of GM enforcement testing	Central Science Laboratory	68,085	1 April 2003	30 September 2005
CB02036	Desk study on technologies for biological containment of GM and non-GM crops	Reading University	52,506	1 June 2005	30 November 2005
CB02043	Agronomic and environmental implications of the establishment of GM herbicide tolerant problem weeds	Rothamsted Research (BBSRC)	40,123	8 March 2005	30 November 2005
CB02033	Monitoring occurrence of GM oilseed rape volunteers in subsequent oilseed rape crops at FSE sites	Scottish Crop Research Institute	500,000	1 May 2004	31 December 2005
CB02039	Review of separation distances and buffer crops for co-existence between GM and non-GM crops	National Institute of Agricultural Botany	49,950	10 June 2004	31 December 2005
CB02041	RNA-mediated gene silencing mechanisms and their implications in plants	John Innes Centre (BBSRC)	24,452	21 February 2005	31 December 2005
CB02040	Quantitative approaches to the risk assessment of GM crops	Central Science Laboratory	100,000	14 March 2005	28 February 2006
CB02034	Farm-scale evaluations: further sampling of soil seed bank and seedling emergence	Rothamsted Research (BBSRC)	351,759	1 May 2004	31 March 2006
CB02037	Farm-scale evaluations: further sampling of soil seed bank and seedling emergence—CEH contract	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	117,434	1 May 2004	31 March 2006
CB02042	Availability and use of general surveillance information for potential changes resulting from GM crop cultivation	Central Science Laboratory	48,168	1 April 2005	31 March 2006
AR1005	BRACT—Biotechnology Resources for Arable Crop Transformation	John Innes Centre (BBSRC)	898,468	1 June 2003	28 February 2007
CB02035	Sustainable introduction of GMOs into European agriculture (SIGMEA)	Central Science Laboratory	84,248	1 May 2004	1 May 2007
CB02020	Factors affecting cross-pollination in OSR growing under typical UK conditions	Scottish Crop Research Institute	825,105	1 November 2002	31 May 2007
CB02025	Insertion of cauliflower mosaic virus DNA into host genomes during natural viral infections	Scottish Crop Research Institute	203,329	1 February 2004	31 July 2007

DEFRA research projects involving genetically modified crops, food and feed

Code	*Title*	*Contractor*	*DEFRA costs (£)*	*Start*	*End*
CB02032	The potential for horizontal gene transfer from transgenic plants to fungi	University of Exeter	421,779	1 June 2004	31 October 2007
CB02019	Factors affecting rates of cross-pollination in maize growing under typical UK conditions	Institute of Grassland and Environment Research	831,415	1 April 2003	31 March 2008
CB0301	Investigation of the establishment and persistence of GM potato volunteers and the potential consequences for current EU labelling thresholds for GM	Central Science Laboratory	16,687	15 October 2008	31 January 2009
CB02026	Curation of the data collected in the farm-scale evaluations	Natural Environment Research Council (Central Office)	194,321	1 April 2003	31 March 2009
CB02044	COEXTRA (GM and non-GM supply chains: their CO-EXistence and TRAceability	Central Science Laboratory	170,161	1 April 2005	30 September 2009
CB02049	Adventitious GM presence arising through use of shared farming machinery, transport and storage equipment	Central Science Laboratory	92,423	15 January 2009	15 July 2010
CB02048	Modelling the fitness value of the Arabidopsis thaliana Circadian Clock	University of Exeter	27,000	8 January 2008	7 January 2011

Hill Farming: Birds

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the contribution of game management to the management of upland areas. [9112]

Mr Paice: The Government recognise the importance of the contribution which game management makes to the creation and management of the relevant habitat types. Some 96% of those Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are grouse moor are now in favourable or recovering condition, increasing from 51% in 2006. This is a reflection of moorland managers' awareness of the importance and sensitivity of upland biodiversity.

Hydroelectric Power

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many extraction licences for hydroelectric schemes the Environment Agency has *(a)* issued, *(b)* refused and *(c)* received but not determined in each of the last three years. [11918]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the number of hydroelectric power licenses the Environment Agency have issued, refused and received since 1 November 2008. Before this date licenses were handled by the areas, as opposed to centrally through the National Permitting Centre.

Hydropower licences, 1 November 2008 to 26 July 2010

			Number
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Licences issued	0	34	38
Licences refused	0	0	5
Licences received	11	58	64

Note: Currently being worked on 57, with 16 waiting to be picked up.

Pheasants: Animal Welfare

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to ban battery cages for breeding pheasants. [12036]

Mr Paice: There are no proposals to bring forward legislation to ban cages for breeding game birds.

On 22 July, the Government laid before Parliament a Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes. The section of the code relating to the housing of game birds recommends that barren cages should not be used and is in line with the recommendations of the Farm Animal Welfare Council's Opinion of 2008.

The code was drafted by a working group of representatives of industry, shooting interests and animal welfare organisations.

In the meantime, game birds reared for sporting purposes continue to be protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which makes it an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal as well as failing to provide for the welfare needs of an animal under the control of man.

Phytophthora Ramorum

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to assist with the clearance and re-stocking of sites affected by Phytophthora ramorum. [11545]

Mr Paice: On 6 July this year, the Forestry Commission announced a £600,000 support package to support woodland owners in tackling the outbreak of Phytophthora ramorum infection in larch trees in south-west England and south Wales. The package has been put in place as part of DEFRA's five-year Phytophthora programme, which is being managed by the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera). The first £100,000 has been earmarked to give private sector owners access to professional advice about how to have infected trees felled and marketed in ways that comply with biosecurity and other regulations. Owners will be able to apply for up to £1,000 of aid from this part of the fund.

The remaining £500,000 will be used to prevent further spread of the disease. It will help owners with the costs of clearing immature or 'thicket-stage' Japanese larch from affected sites, both privately owned and those managed by the Forestry Commission, especially those most likely to cause further spread of the disease.

Further details are available on the Forestry Commission's Phytophthora ramorum web pages.

Scientists from Forest Research are preparing guidance on restocking sites affected by Phytophthora ramorum for owners and managers. They expect to be able to issue this within the next few weeks on the Forestry Commission website.

The Forestry Commission and Fera are working closely with industry to develop guidelines for improvements in parks and garden management, and in the retail and nursery trade, which will further reduce the spread of the disease.

Phytophthora Ramorum: Cornwall

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the spread of Phytophthora ramorum in Cornwall. [11546]

Mr Paice: Since the first detection of Phytophthora ramorum in Sussex in May 2002, a systematic programme of surveys has been carried out by the Food and Environment Research Agency and the Forestry Commission covering nurseries, garden centres, woodland and other sites in the wider environment, with action being taken to destroy infected plants that posed a risk of further spread, especially Rhododendrons.

In August 2009, the pathogen was found for the first time in Japanese larch, a commercial forestry tree species, at sites in Cornwall (as well as in Devon and Somerset), and surveys since then have found a number of further sites where trees have been infected. These surveys have intensified and are ongoing, supported by aerial surveillance by helicopter. Notice has now been served on 373 hectares in Cornwall, which have been confirmed with the infection since the initial outbreak was discovered. Only one new infected site was found between April and June this year. Most of the infected sites are on the public forest estate.

In addition to this, since the first infections were discovered, there have been 166 non-larch sites confirmed as infected in parks and gardens in Cornwall. At least 22 of these are now confirmed as being clear of the pathogen.

Rural Payments Agency: Costs

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the administrative costs of the Rural Payments Agency have been in each year since 2005. [11794]

Mr Paice: The total spent by the RPA on administration (net running) costs in each year since 2005 are as follows:

	£000
2008-09	240,429
2007-08	241,716
2006-07	228,337
2005-06	239,209

Included in the above are costs associated with the UK Co-ordinating Body, as reported in the RPA's annual report and accounts. The figures include in-year adjustments over and above the budget allocation for additional work taken on by the RPA during the financial year.

The 2009-10 costs are yet to be signed off by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Sustainable Development Commission

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the contribution of the Sustainable Development Commission to the Government's sustainability strategy. [10941]

Mr Paice: The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) has made a positive contribution across Government and society over the past 10 years and I pay tribute to its work and to the current and previous chairs, Will Day and Jonathon Porritt.

As the Sustainable Development Commission's report on Sustainable Development in Government, published on 22 July, makes clear, there is more to be done. The Prime Minister has pledged that this will be the greenest Government ever. While Government have made progress, we need to take more concerted action on the carbon agenda, led by DECC, and also on the wider sustainability agenda including waste, water, biodiversity, resource efficiency and other areas which DEFRA leads on. As set out in our Structural Reform Plan, this will help to mainstream sustainability and strengthen the Government's performance.

As the Secretary of State announced in a written ministerial statement on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 31-33WS, to do this effectively across Government, DEFRA will establish an enhanced departmental capability and presence on sustainable development and will withdraw funding from the SDC from the next financial year, increasing Government responsibility and transparency.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 2001; and what estimate she has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by her Department for use by trade unions in each year since 2001. [11667]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not pay any money directly to any of its recognised trade unions. DEFRA does grant its trade union representatives reasonable time off and facilities to carry out trade union duties, activities and training in accordance with their statutory rights.

The financial value of the facilities provided to the trade unions for the financial years 2009-10 is estimated at £1,201,301 for DEFRA and its Executive agencies.

Records for earlier years are not readily available and can be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many paid manpower hours civil servants in her Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 2001. [11668]

Richard Benyon: For the financial year 2009-10 DEFRA and its agencies provided its trade union representatives with approximately 6,805 hours facility time.

Records for earlier years are not readily available and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants in her Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 2001. [11669]

Richard Benyon: This information to answer this question is not readily available and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Water Companies

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to encourage utility companies to *(a)* increase the reliability of water supplies and *(b)* reduce the frequency of hosepipe bans and other measures to conserve water supplies. [10914]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 26 July 2010]*: All water companies plan for secure water supplies through their 25-year water resources management plans. These set out how a company will provide for a sustainable supply and demand balance, taking into account pressures such as population growth and climate change.

This does not mean that they can avoid introducing restrictions in times of water shortages although typically companies plan for restrictions once every 20 years. To plan for resources that would meet demand in any circumstances would accrue significant additional costs, which would be passed to customers, and would also have environmental impacts. All companies take a risk-based approach. They balance a planned level of service, which includes measures such as hosepipe bans, against the costs customers are willing to pay for a secure supply.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will require water companies not to use housing targets contained in regional spatial strategies to inform water demand forecasts as part of their water resources management plans. [11506]

Richard Benyon: We expect to review how the process has worked for this first round of statutory plans once all are published. We also expect to consider the need for changes to existing guidance, including that on demand forecasts, before the next set of plans is prepared. This will take into account the revocation of the regional strategies. We will continue to ensure that these plans take appropriate account of the best available housing growth data.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what methodology her Department plans to use to calculate the cost price of alcohol; [11643]

(2) when she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit the sale of alcohol below cost price. [11916]

James Brokenshire: We are determined to tackle the sale of below cost alcohol, and clamp down on irresponsible sales where this has been shown to impact on crime and disorder. The Government are considering the detail of what "below cost selling" constitutes and how the ban will be enforced. We will work closely with other Government Departments including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Office of Fair Trading, as well as representatives of the licensed trade, including the supermarkets, to determine how best to effectively implement this commitment, without unduly adding a bureaucratic burden for businesses.

Animal Experiments

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what organisations *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department (i) have met and (ii) plan to meet to discuss policy and practice on scientific procedures on animals. [11200]

Lynne Featherstone: I have already met with representatives from the UK Bioscience sector coalition and the chair of the Animal Procedures Committee. I have meetings scheduled with representatives from the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection and Animal Defenders International and a date is to be arranged to meet with representatives from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Asylum

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the delay in processing asylum applications on the hidden economy and the level of illegal working. [11320]

Damian Green: It is our priority to ensure that those who apply for asylum in the UK have their applications processed as quickly as possible. That is why, as outlined in the Partnership Programme, the Government are committed to exploring new ways to improve the current asylum system to speed up the processing of applications. The UK Border Agency is working to meet this commitment and improve the asylum process, which will help promote swifter refugee integration and, where asylum is refused, will assist in ensuring the return and reintegration of failed asylum seekers is done as smoothly and effectively as possible.

The Government are committed to cracking down on illegal working, including any asylum seekers working illegally. Regular raids on employers are carried out and employers are liable for a fine of up to £10,000 per illegal worker.

British Nationality

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were refused UK citizenship in (i) Lancashire, (ii) the North West and (iii) the UK in each year since 1997. [10883]

Damian Green: The information requested is shown in the following tables. Totals for the UK have been taken from the 2009 Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The information relating to Lancashire and the north-west has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Table 1: Nationality applications received and refusals of British citizenship in the north-west, 1997 to 2009

Number

	Applications received			*Refused*		
	Total for the UK	*Total for the north-west*	*Total for Lancashire*	*Total for the UK*	*Total for the north-west*	*Total for Lancashire*
1997	66,000	—	—	4,745	—	—
1998	68,030	—	—	3,750	—	—
1999	67,400	—	—	3,995	—	—
2000	62,475	—	—	6,785	—	—
2001	109,005	—	—	9,530	—	—
2002	115,500	—	—	8,330	—	—
2003	147,345	—	—	10,555	—	—
2004	132,630	6,135	795	13,820	315	30
2005	211,910	11,025	1,195	16,640	830	70
2006	140,925	7,615	670	15,310	740	75
2007	157,055	9,495	825	15,630	760	55
2008	156,015	11,385	975	9,085	520	45
2009	193,810	15,630	1,510	10,250	865	50

Table 2: Applications received in the north-west, 2004-09

Number

Local authority	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Blackburn and Darwen	410	785	230	255	370	700
Blackpool	70	120	105	145	135	135
Bolton	410	760	340	565	775	975
Bury	160	260	145	235	270	405
Cumbria	85	200	95	160	210	230
East Cheshire	—	—	—	—	5	275
Halton	10	35	40	40	40	75
Isle of Man	60	85	105	75	145	200
Knowsley	45	55	55	65	75	160
Lancashire	795	1,195	670	825	975	1,510
Liverpool	490	970	775	865	1,095	1,555
Manchester	1,495	3,075	2,460	3,080	3,275	3,810
Oldham	335	595	255	340	705	1,165
Rochdale	275	390	210	370	475	685
Salford	125	340	320	315	470	625
Sefton	70	105	100	90	100	145
St Helens	45	70	60	85	95	120
Stockport	215	425	300	325	330	470
Tameside	150	220	115	175	250	445
Trafford	335	510	410	530	520	710
Warrington	70	170	120	170	180	285

Table 2: Applications received in the north-west, 2004-09

Number

Local authority	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
West Cheshire	280	380	350	370	455	275
Wigan	70	105	185	170	210	310
Wirral	135	180	170	250	220	340
Total	6,135	11,025	7,615	9,495	11,385	15,630

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5. Totals may not sum to their components due to rounding.
2. Citizenship ceremonies were introduced Jan 2004. This is when the applicants' postcodes were mapped to their nearest local authority.
3. Total for Lancashire only includes Lancashire local authority. A breakdown of all the north-west local authorities is presented in the second table.
4. The total for the UK figures have been taken from the 2009 Home Office Statistical Bulletin.
5. Applications received for the UK to 2004 include applications for right of abode. Total applications for 2005 and all application figures for the north-west and Lancashire exclude right of abode cases.

Source:

Local Management Information provided by UKBA, North West Region Planning and MI Team.

Table 3: Refusals of British citizenship in the north-west, 2004-09

Local authority	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Blackburn and Darwen	15	40	60	15	15	45
Blackpool	5	15	5	5	5	10
Bolton	15	50	55	30	45	45
Bury	10	15	10	20	10	40
Cumbria	10	20	10	10	5	5
East Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	10
Halton	[1]—	5	5	5	—	[1]—
Knowsley	5	10	[1]—	5	-	5
Lancashire	30	70	75	55	45	50
Liverpool	35	65	75	80	45	95
Manchester	100	300	230	315	175	265
Oldham	25	45	30	40	20	55
Rochdale	20	25	35	20	25	35
Salford	10	25	40	40	35	60
Sefton	—	5	[1]—	5	[1]—	5
St Helens	—	5	5	[1]—	5	5
Stockport	5	25	25	20	15	35
Tameside	5	15	5	10	5	15
Trafford	10	35	25	30	20	20
Warrington	[1]—	10	10	5	5	10
West Cheshire	10	25	20	20	15	10
Wigan	5	10	5	10	15	25
Wirral	10	15	10	20	10	10
Total	315	830	740	760	520	865

[1] Negligible i.e. 2 or less.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5. Totals may not sum to their components due to rounding.
2. Citizenship ceremonies were introduced Jan 2004. This is when the applicants' postcodes were mapped to their nearest local authority.
3. Total for Lancashire only includes Lancashire local authority. A breakdown of all the north-west local authorities is presented in this table.
4. The total for the UK figures have been taken from the 2009 Home Office Statistical Bulletin.
5. Applications received for the UK to 2004 include applications for right of abode. Total applications for 2005 and all application figures for the north-west and Lancashire exclude right of abode cases.

Source:

Local Management Information provided by UKBA, North West Region Planning and MI Team.

Crime: Fraud

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of criminal activity involving stolen driving licences there were in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [11048]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally. While the Home Office collects data on offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, it is not possible to identify those which involved the use of stolen driving licences.

Crime: Unemployment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of the effects on levels of *(a)* crime and *(b)* civil disobedience of changes in the level of unemployment. [8850]

Nick Herbert: There are no current plans to make an assessment of the effects on levels of crime or civil disobedience of changes in the level of unemployment.

Criminal Records Bureau

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Criminal Records Bureau's revenue was in the latest period for which figures are available. [11740]

Lynne Featherstone: The revenue generated by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) for the latest financial year (2009-10) is £127.3 million.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of how many individuals the Criminal Records Bureau received *(a)* more than one, *(b)* more than two and *(c)* more than five applications for (i) standard and (ii) an enhanced disclosure in the most recent 12 months period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [11741]

Lynne Featherstone: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not hold this information. The Bureau's system stores information based upon each application and not on each individual applicant. Each application is treated as a new application.

It is ultimately for each recruiting organisation and not the CRB to decide whether and when a certificate should be applied for.

The decision to request these checks is made in line with the organisations' own internal recruitment policies and any legislation that governs them.

A CRB certificate is not clearance to work; it simply provides the recruiting organisation with the information available at that time on which to base its decision. As conviction or other relevant information can be recorded against an individual at any time, authorities may decide that a new application needs to be made to make sure the information provided is accurate and up to date on each occasion.

Death: Weapons

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many 13 to 19 year olds were killed in shootings in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available; [10735]

(2) how many 13 to 19 year olds were killed in knife incidents or stabbings in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available. [10736]

James Brokenshire: Available information is from the Homicide Index and relates to offences currently recorded as homicide (murder, manslaughter and infanticide) as at 24 November 2009. Data from the Homicide Index cannot be broken down below police force area level, and so data only for London and England can be provided. The following tables show the number of homicide victims aged 13 to 19 years inclusive where the apparent method of killing is 'sharp instrument' or 'shooting', in each financial year from 2005-06 to 2008-09. Figures for 2009-10 will be published in January 2011 in Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/10".

Table 1: Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing for victims aged 13 to 19, England, 2005-06 to 2008-09[2]

Recorded crime (Number)

Method of killing	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Sharp instrument[3]	25	30	44	34
Shooting[4]	6	11	10	7

[1] As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[3] Includes knives and other sharp instruments.

[4] Including shooting by crossbow. Excludes homicides where firearms used as a blunt instrument.

Table 2: Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing for victims aged 13 to 19, London region[2], 2005-06 to 2008-09[3]

Recorded crime (Number)

Method of killing	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Sharp instrument[4]	8	12	20	18
Shooting[5]	2	6	6	3

[1] As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] The London region consists of the City of London and the metropolitan police forces.

[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offense as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[4] Includes knives and other sharp instruments.

[5] Including shooting by crossbow. Excludes homicides where firearms used as a blunt instrument.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [9251]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department does not hold this information centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for consultants to her Department is for 2010-11. [9208]

Nick Herbert: Under the new coalition Government, the Department has set targets to reduce overall expenditure on consultants by some 50% in the current financial year, supported by stricter rules of engagement and approvals, with Secretary of State approval required for any expenditure above £20,000. These measures are designed to reduce expenditure to £84 million in the current financial year.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7341]

Nick Herbert: The following table sets out the available data for information and communication technology within the Home Office and UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau.

Figures for the Home Office Core and UK Border Agency are provided from 2005-06 onwards, and are drawn from the Department's resource accounts. These include identifiable ICT costs, including PFI costs, but not IT-related staff and capital costs as it is not possible to break down expenditure in those areas without incurring disproportionate cost.

General and subsidiary ledgers produced for the purpose of preparing certified financial statements are not retained after a period of six years, in line with National Audit Office requirements. The Department does not, therefore, hold the requested information for financial years before 2004-05.

Information on expenditure by the Identity and Passport Service is provided for each financial year since 1999, drawn from the agency's annual accounts.

Figures for the Criminal Records Bureau are provided for each financial year since 2000, drawn from internal records.

ICT expenditure

£

	Home Office[1]	*CRB*	*IPS*
2009-10	n/a	1,873,416	21,679,000
2008-09	217,155,000	1,541,360	20,559,000
2007-08	171,472,000	1,435,361	13,716,000
2006-07	193,484,000	1,305,567	11,941,000
2005-06	173,491,000	1,327,939	7,410,000
2004-05	[2]—	1,115,874	6,691,000
2003-04	n/a	1,140,883	3,372,000
2002-03	n/a	985,088	2,966,000
2001-02	n/a	610,015	2,744,000
2000-01	n/a	128,249	1,905,000
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	1,361,000

n/a = Not available

[1] Media and IT costs for UKBA are included in the Home Office figures. The publications also show the grant payments made to the non-departmental public bodies but are not included in the media and IT costs.

[2] 2004-05 figures are not available as the accounts were disclaimed by the National Audit Office and any reported expenditure would be unreliable.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5960]

Nick Herbert: There is no centralised reporting mechanism for recording of reported thefts in the Home Department. To gather the information required would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Ministers in her Department have used an allocated Ministerial car to travel between her Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5550]

Nick Herbert: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 434W.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7448]

Nick Herbert: Expenditure incurred by the Department, UK Border Agency and Identity and Passport Service is set out in the table.

£000

	Home Office and UKBA	*Identity and Passport Service*
2009-10	51	7
2008-09	50	7
2007-08	58	5
2006-07	93	13
2005-06	324	6

Home Office expenditure on official hospitality and entertainment conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Hospitality is defined as the provision of food, drink and entertainment of non-civil servants where it is beneficial to the interests of the Department.

General and subsidiary ledgers produced for the purpose of preparing certified financial statements are not retained after a period of six years, in line with National Audit Office requirements. The Department does not hold the requested information for financial years before 2004-05. The Department's 2004-05 Resource Accounts were disclaimed and reported expenditure for that year is unreliable.

Expenditure incurred by the Criminal Records Bureau and non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10115]

Nick Herbert: £2,494.81 was spent on hospitality for an event hosted by the Home Secretary and her ministerial team with approximately 100 key Home Office partners in May of this year. The event provided Ministers with the opportunity to establish relationships and share early priorities. The hospitality cost was kept to a minimum by managing the event in-house. No other events were hosted by Home Office Ministers in either May or June.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to reduce the running costs of her Department since her appointment. [9824]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office is committed to reducing its costs and is currently considering how future savings will be achieved as part of the Government's spending review which will report in October. This will build on the £367 million savings that the Department has already identified as its share of the £6 billion cross-government cuts announced by the Coalition Government in May.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in her Department in 2009-10. [9901]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office accounts show that the costs for all permanently employed staff within the Home Office and its agencies for 2009-10 are as follows:

		(£)
	Core Home Office	*Core HO + Agencies*
Wages and salaries	102,729,000	941,808,000
Social security costs	10,284,000	66,797,000
Other pension costs	23,296,000	159,724,000
Less recoveries in respect of outward secondments	(666,000)	(2,197,000)
Total net costs	135,643,000	1,166,132,000

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of her Department's regulations are under review; and if she will make a statement. [7150]

Nick Herbert: In the Budget the Government announced plans for reducing regulatory burdens, including the introduction of a one-in-one out system for new regulations and a fundamental review of all regulation inherited from the previous Government scheduled for introduction over the coming year. These regulations will not be implemented until they have been reviewed and re-agreed by the Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee.

The Your Freedom website launched by the Deputy Prime Minister on 1 July 2010, will also give members of the public the opportunity to suggest existing regulations for removal:

http://yourfreedom.hmg.gov.uk/

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7467]

Nick Herbert: Due to a switch over to the Oracle ERP system in 2004 and changes to the Home Department's accounting systems, details of spend on stationery for the Home Department and UKBA prior to 2004 are not available. To obtain the information would incur disproportionate cost.

However we do hold data for the Home Department and United Kingdom Border Agency spend on stationery in each year since 2004 which is as follows:

Table 1: Stationery spend Home Department and UKBA

	£000
2004-05	2,286,400
2005-06	2,773,000
2006-07	4,490,700
2007-08	4,214,700
2008-09	3,250,400
2009-10	2,132,200

The Home Department's executive agency and executive NDPBs spend on stationery in each year since 1997 or their vesting date if later is:

Table 2: Stationery spend—agency/NDPB

	CRB	IPS	IPCC	ISA	NPIA	OISC	SIA	SOCA
1997-98	—	351,900	—	—	—			
1998-99	—	438,600	—	—	—			
1999-2000	—	705,200	—	—	—			
2000-01	15,400	469,000	—	—	—			
2001-02	61,200	1,258,100	—	—	—	31,000		
2002-03	79,400	790,000	—	—	—	14,100		
2003-04	72,000	622,000	—	—	—	10,200	33,600	
2004-05	47,700	522,400	179,000	—	—	13,400	47,100	
2005-06	40,200	587.600	171,000	—	—	11,500	64,200	
2006-07	55,000	738,400	232,000	—	—	8,500	77,300	1,085,900
2007-08	17,100	666,800	179,000	—	558,000	10,200	68,000	686,300

Table 2: Stationery spend—agency/NDPB

	CRB	IPS	IPCC	ISA	NPIA	OISC	SIA	SOCA
2008-09	65,600	490,500	137,000	72,500	537,000	10,800	88,200	723,600
2009-10	35,400	270,600	161,000	76,000	786,000	7,900	115,600	649,300

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many temporary employees are working in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* other bodies financed from its budget. [9211]

Nick Herbert: There were 690 temporary employees working in the Home Office Headquarters and its three Executive Agencies (UKBA, IPS, and CRB) as at 31 March 2010 out of 26,800 civil servants.

210 were in the Home Office headquarters, 370 in UKBA, 100 in IPS and 10 in CRB.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training has been provided for Ministers in her Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6448]

Nick Herbert: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 52W. The National School of Government is funded through its Core Learning Programme to deliver induction and other training to Ministers, and there is no separate charge to Departments.

Induction training at the National School of Government was undertaken by the following Home Office Ministers:

James Brokenshire
Lynne Featherstone
Nick Herbert
Damian Green

No additional training has been provided for Home Office Ministers since the formation of the present Administration.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7429]

Nick Herbert: Due to changes in the computer systems used to record travel costs and/or the way travel costs have historically been recorded we are unable to provide complete data. The Home Office HQ and UK Border Agency moved to the current system in October 2008. Other agencies and NDPBs did not have systems in place for the whole period and/or do not separate out travel costs from other expense types. It would have represented a disproportionate cost to obtain data from all NDPBs, but we have included in our response data from the Executive agencies. The table provides all available data.

	HO/UKBA spend	*CRB*	*IPS*	*NPIA*	*SOCA*	*SIA*	*ISA*	*IPCC (rail only)*
1997-98	[1]—	—	211,061	—	—	—	—	—
1998-99	[1]—	—	262,315	—	—	—	—	—
1999-2000	[1]—	—	151,723	—	—	—	—	—
2000-01	[1]—	112,680	698,692	—	—	—	—	—
2001-02	[1]—	159,956	853,792	—	—	—	—	—
2002-03	[1]—	379,746	913,029	—	—	—	—	—
2003-04	[1]—	337,500	760,510	—	—	[1]—	—	—
2004-05	[1]—	468,219	1,018,540	—	—	[1]—	—	175,031
2005-06	[1]—	377,428	1,382,681	—	—	279,180	—	251,071
2006-07	[1]—	342,215	2,075,806	—	9,605,345	358,512	—	210,481
2007-08	[1]—	279,846	2,573,460	2,669,000	9,065,251	384,544	—	198,476
2008-09	[2]7,579,571	371,289	2,976,401	3,097,000	9,993,716	499,478	91,359	249,069
2009-10	10,920,147	419,984	2,921,661	3,721,000	8,871,119	559,701	150,541	205,660

[1] Historical data unavailable.

[2] From October 2008 only.

Key:
NDPB—Non-departmental public body
HO—Home Office
UKBA—United Kingdom Border Agency
CRB—Criminal Records Bureau
IPS—Identity and Passport Service
NPIA—National Policing Improvement Agency
OISC—Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner
SOCA—Serious Organised Crime Agency
SIA—Security Industry Authority
ISA—Independent Safeguarding Authority
IPCC—Independent Police Complaints Commission
PCoE—(HO) Procurement Centre of Excellence

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7970]

Nick Herbert: All Home Office Ministers apart from the Home Secretary have been driven by the Government Car Service. All Government Car Service contracts were terminated in May but the contract stipulates that all Departments are obliged to serve a 90-day termination period, which means all contracts will expire in August.

As was the case under previous Governments, all civil servants and special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances.

Thus far, no Home Office Minister has claimed any expenses relating to the use of taxis, underground or buses.

The Government publishes on a quarterly basis the expenses incurred by the most senior officials, which includes use of the Government car service and other travel expenses.

Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses and auxiliary nurses from each African country under the (i) work permits system and (ii) points-based immigration system in each of the last five years. [10588]

Damian Green: The numbers of work permits issued for each of the requested categories are set out in the following table.

Work permits approved (Africa) by Doctor/nurse 1 January 2005 - 20 July 2010

Nationality	*Occupation*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Algeria	Doctor	0	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Nurse	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Total	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Botswana	Doctor	0	5	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	5
	Nurse	140	70	35	40	5	[1]—	295
	Total	140	75	35	40	5	[1]—	300
Burundi	Nurse	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	5
	Total	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	5
Cameroon	Doctor	5	5	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	15
	Nurse	40	30	20	35	[1]—	[1]—	130
	Total	45	35	20	40	[1]—	[1]—	145
Congo	Doctor	0	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—
	Nurse	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	10
	Total	5	[1]—	[1]—	5	0	0	10
Egypt	Doctor	85	85	40	75	5	0	285
	Nurse	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0	5
	Total	85	85	40	75	5	0	290
Ethiopia	Doctor	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—
	Nurse	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	5
	Total	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	5
Gambia	Nurse	35	25	10	10	[1]—	[1]—	80
	Total	35	25	10	10	[1]—	[1]—	80
Ghana	Doctor	20	20	5	15	0	0	60
	Nurse	650	290	200	220	10	10	1,375
	Total	670	310	210	230	10	10	1,435
Guinea	Nurse	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Total	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Ivory Coast	Nurse	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Total	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Kenya	Doctor	10	20	5	5	0	0	35
	Nurse	255	145	95	115	5	[1]—	615
	Total	265	165	95	115	5	[1]—	650
Lesotho	Doctor	0	[1]—	5	[1]—	0	0	5
	Nurse	80	50	25	40	[1]—	0	190
	Total	80	50	25	40	[1]—	0	200
Liberia	Doctor	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	5
	Nurse	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0	5
	Total	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0	5
Libya	Doctor	50	30	10	10	0	0	100

Work permits approved (Africa) by Doctor/nurse 1 January 2005 - 20 July 2010

Nationality	*Occupation*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
	Nurse	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Total	55	30	10	10	0	0	100
Malawi	Doctor	[1]—	5	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	10
	Nurse	125	70	40	50	[1]—	[1]—	285
	Total	125	75	40	50	[1]—	[1]—	295
Mauritius	Doctor	5	10	0	[1]—	0	0	20
	Nurse	350	175	145	150	10	[1]—	830
	Total	350	190	145	155	10	[1]—	850
Morocco	Nurse	0	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Total	0	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Mozambique	Nurse	0	0	0	t	0	0	[1]—
	Total	0	0	0	t	0	0	[1]—
Namibia	Doctor	0	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Nurse	25	15	10	15	t	0	70
	Total	25	15	10	15	t	0	75
Niger	Nurse	0	[1]—	0	0		0	[1]—
	Total	0	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Nigeria	Doctor	100	125	25	35	[1]—	0	285
	Nurse	1,160	600	390	490	30	5	2,685
	Total	1,260	730	415	525	30	5	2,970
Rwanda	Doctor	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Nurse	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	5
	Total	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	5
Seychelles	Nurse	25	15	10	5	0	0	50
	Total	25	15	10	5	0	0	50
Sierra Leone	Doctor	[1]—	5	0	0	0	0	5
	Nurse	70	45	20	15	5	0	155
	Total	75	50	20	15	5	0	160
Somalia	Doctor	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Nurse	5	5	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	10
	Total	5	5	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	15
South africa	Doctor	300	265	175	170	5	[1]—	915
	Nurse	2,010	1,135	545	410	25	5	4,135
	Total	2,310	1,400	720	580	30	10	5,050
Sudan	Doctor	35	30	20	30	[1]—	0	115
	Nurse	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—	0	[1]—
	Total	35	30	20	30	[1]—	0	115
Swaziland	Nurse	100	70	25	20	[1]—	0	215
	Total	100	70	25	20	[1]—	0	215
Tanzania	Doctor	[1]—	10	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	15
	Nurse	45	25	20	10	[1]—	0	100
	Total	45	35	20	15	[1]—	0	115
Togo	Nurse	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	5
	Total	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	5
Tunisia	Nurse	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—	0	5
	Total	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—	0	5
Uganda	Doctor	5	5	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	15
	Nurse	70	30	30	30	[1]—	0	165
	Total	80	35	30	35	[1]—	0	180
Zaire	Doctor	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—
	Nurse	0	0	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—
	Total	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—
Zambia	Doctor	5	5	[1]—	0	0	0	10
	Nurse	350	195	135	130	10	[1]—	820
	Total	355	200	135	130	10	[1]—	835
Zimbabwe	Doctor	25	20	10	10	[1]—	0	60

Work permits approved (Africa) by Doctor/nurse 1 January 2005 - 20 July 2010

Nationality	*Occupation*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
	Nurse	2,330	1,610	1,095	1,175	60	10	6,280
	Total	2,355	1,625	1,105	1,185	60	10	6,340
Total		8,540	5,265	3,155	3,330	180	40	20,510

[1] Indicates 1 or 2

Notes:

1. The data in this publication are based on management information, are provisional and may be subject to change. The data are not National Statistics.
2. Figures are rounded to nearest 5
3. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
4. Doctor Occupations include: Medical Practitioner, Hospital Consultant, Doctor, GP Registrar, Specialist Registrar
5. Nurse Occupations include: Nurse, Midwife

EU Justice And Home Affairs

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what EU agreements made under Justice and Home Affairs provisions require further UK consent to be fully incorporated into the First Pillar following ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon; and how many have been so incorporated to date. [10353]

James Brokenshire: The Lisbon Treaty contains transitional provisions for measures adopted under the police and judicial co-operation title of the old Treaty on European Union. These provide for a transitional period of five years to apply in relation to those measures. During this period the European Court of Justice continues to have limited jurisdiction and the European Commission is precluded from bringing infraction proceedings. At the end of the five-year period these measures will become subject to the full jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice and the full enforcement powers of the European Commission. While this requires no further consent from the UK, the Lisbon Treaty includes a protocol that allows us to opt out of all these measures en bloc at any time before 1 June 2014.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had at EU level on the mechanisms for incorporating into the First Pillar those agreements made under Justice and Home Affairs provisions that require further UK consent. [11243]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department and junior Ministers engage regularly with EU counterparts both at EU level meetings such as the Justice and Home Affairs Council and through bilateral discussions with counterparts in the European Commission and EU member states. The Lisbon treaty contains provisions preserving measures adopted under the police and judicial co-operation title of the old treaty on European Union (i.e. before 1 December 2009) for a transitional period of five years, during which the European Court of Justice continues to have only limited jurisdiction and the European Commission is precluded from bringing infraction proceedings. At the end of this period these measures will become subject to the full jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice and the full enforcement powers of the European Commission. While this requires no further consent from the UK, the treaty includes a protocol that allows us to opt out of all of these measures en bloc at any time before 1 June 2014.

Firearms: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-fatal incidents involving (1) 13 to 19-year-olds and guns there were in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available; [10729]

(2) guns there were in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available. [10731]

James Brokenshire: Available data relate to offences recorded in London and England between 2005-06 and 2008-09, and are from the Home Office's additional data collection on selected offences in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used. They are shown in the following tables. Data for 2009-10 are scheduled to be published in January 2011. Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat. It is not possible to provide information below police force level.

Table 1: Non-fatal offences recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1], England, 2005-06 to 2008-09

	13 to 19-year-olds	*Recorded crime Total*
2005-06	1,934	10,807
2006-07	1,753	9,374
2007-08	1,753	9,603
2008-09	1,258	8,030

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in an offence if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat

Table 2: Non-fatal offences recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1], London region[2], 2005-06 to 2008-09

	13 to 19-year-olds	*Recorded crime Total*
2005-06	784	3,862
2006-07	685	3,303
2007-08	633	3,376
2008-09	514	3,070

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in an offence if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat.

[2] The London region consists of the City of London and the Metropolitan police forces.

Football: Security

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will request a report from the South African authorities on their arrangements for ensuring public order in relation to football fans attending the recent FIFA World Cup. [9406]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* We have no plans to request such a report. There was close and extensive liaison between the South African authorities and UK governmental and policing football experts before and during the tournament and very close co-operation in venue cities between host and English police delegations. Throughout the World Cup, the host authorities provided daily reports on their safety and security strategy and events in South Africa.

Hunting Act 2004

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is provided for police officers and the Crown Prosecution Service on enforcing the provisions of the Hunting Act 2004; and if she will increase the levels of provision of such training. [7409]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* Training provided to police forces on enforcing the provisions of the Hunting Act is a matter for individual chief officers. The Crown Prosecution Service provides comprehensive legal guidance on the Hunting Act 2004 for prosecutors. The Government have no plans to increase the levels of provision of such training.

Identity Cards

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 157W, for what reason refunds for identity cards will not be offered. [12045]

Damian Green: The coalition Government are committed to scrapping the identity card scheme and the national identity register. We aim to achieve that at the least possible cost to the taxpayer. A very small percentage of the population voluntarily chose to buy a card and were warned that the scheme may be scrapped. We do not see why the taxpayer should pick up the bill to provide refunds.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Children

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been barred from working with children by the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [11332]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* From 12 October 2009 to 22 July 2010, the Independent Safeguarding Authority has placed 11,361 people on the children's barred list. A further 15,649 people have been transferred to the children's list who were listed under previous schemes: the Protection of Children Act list and List 99. Some individuals were also transferred to the ISA children's barred list from the Protection of Vulnerable Adults List because of the risk they demonstrated to children.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Darlington

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of the Independent Safeguarding Authority offices in Darlington. [11329]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* We have already announced our decision to review the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and scale it back to a common sense level. The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) was established to support the operation of the vetting and barring scheme and the outcomes of that review will have an impact on its role.

It would, however, not be appropriate to pre-empt the outcomes of the review.

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what tasks are undertaken at the Independent Safeguarding Authority's offices in Darlington. [11330]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The Independent Safeguarding Authority's role is to make fair and consistent barring decisions on those people who may pose a risk of harm to children and/or vulnerable adults through paid or unpaid work. The ISA has four statutory functions:

to maintain a list of those who are barred from engaging in regulated activity with children (the "children's barred list");

to maintain a list of those barred from engaging in regulated activity with vulnerable adults (the "adults' barred list");

to reach decisions about whether a person should be included in one or both barred lists; and

to reach decisions as to whether to remove a person from a barred list.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Employment

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed by the Independent Safeguarding Authority in Darlington. [11331]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* At the Independent Safeguarding Authority's offices in Darlington, there are currently 276 employees. This figure includes full-time permanent staff, fixed term staff and casual staff.

Khat

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of the use of the substance khat. [10738]

James Brokenshire: The Department commissioned two studies in 2009 to explore the social harms associated with khat use, though the perceived health effects of khat are also briefly reported on in each of the studies. The first of these is a mainly qualitative study undertaken among the UK's Somali, Yemeni and Ethiopian communities exploring perceptions of the social harms associated with khat use and perceptions of the appropriate role of Government intervention (the study also included a short survey of drug action teams to gauge the availability of treatment service provision for khat users). The second is a review of the national and international literature examining the evidence on the social harms associated with khat and the impact of legislation in countries which have legislated against khat use and supply.

In addition, the British crime survey report "Drug Misuse Declared 2009/10", published on 22 July 2010, for the first time includes estimates of the prevalence of khat use in the general population. Preliminary findings (based on six months data) show that 0.2% of adults reported using khat in the last year.

This report is available on the Home Office RDS website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1310.pdf

Source:

"Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2009/10 British Crime Survey (England and Wales)".

Knives: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-fatal incidents involving (1) 13 to 19-year-olds and knives there were in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available; [10730]

(2) knives there were in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available. [10732]

James Brokenshire: Available data relate to offences recorded in London and England between 2007-08 and 2009-10, and are from the Home Office's additional data collection on selected offences involving knives and sharp instruments (hereafter referred to as 'knife offences'). Since only aggregate knife offences data are collected from forces, it is not possible to provide information broken down by age of victim or suspect, or below police force level.

The collection was introduced in April 2007 and knives are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or in a threat. A sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or, in the case of a threat, is capable of piercing the skin) and includes bottles and glass (when broken prior to the offence) and syringes.

Data collected in 2007-08 covered the offences of attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, GBH without intent and robbery. The following offence categories were added to the collection in 2008-09: threats to kill, actual bodily harm (ABH), sexual assault and rape.

The following table shows data for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. It should be noted that data for 2007-08 are not directly comparable to those for later years. This is due to the change in offences covered by the collection, and also due to changes in: (i) the clarification rules for recording GBH with intent; and (ii) the definition of GBH without intent.

Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, 2007-08 to 2009-10[1], recorded crime

Method of killing	*2007-08*[2]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
England	20,985	34,806	32,570
London Region[3]	7,428	12,259	12,570

[1] Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. In this table 'offences involving a knife' refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument. Total of selected serious offences only include the five offence types shown in this table.

[2] Due to the inclusion of additional offence groups, a change in the clarification rules for recording GBH with intent, and a change in the definition of GBH without intent it is not possible to compare between 2007-08 and later years.

[3] The London region consists of the City of London and the Metropolitan police forces.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 14 June 2010 on Abu Hamza, ref. M7887/10. [10333]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 22 July 2010.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Rutherglen and Hamilton West on his constituent Ms Linda Patlock. [11879]

Damian Green: I wrote to the hon. Member on 26 July 2010.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the letter of 23 June from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding Mr B. Vadgama. [11939]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency replied to my hon. Friend's letter of 23 June 2010 regarding Mr B Vadgama on 21 July 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter dated 11 June 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Ms Aisha Akhtar. [11968]

Damian Green: I replied to the right hon. Member on 22 July 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter dated 2 June 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr Kasaif Ikbal. [11969]

Damian Green: The letter of 2 June crossed in the post with the reply of 2 June to the earlier letter of 14 May 2010. No further reply was needed.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter dated 20 May 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr A. Khan. [11970]

Damian Green: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 651W.

Multiple Temporary Event Notices

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to enable multiple temporary event notices to be submitted on a single application. [11989]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office will shortly lead a public consultation on the overhaul of the Licensing Act and other alcohol measures set out in the coalition agreement. This will include inviting views on deregulation and temporary events notices.

National Referral Mechanism

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 77W, for what reasons no decision was recorded in the cases of 122 individuals who were referred to the National Referral Mechanism between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010; and if she will make a statement. [7926]

Nick Herbert: "No decision recorded" refers mostly to cases which are still under consideration. It can also refer to cases where decisions have been made but have not yet been recorded in the statistics.

National Referral Mechanism statistics are updated quarterly. In future statistical updates, cases which are still under consideration will be shown as such.

Police Community Support Officers: Powers

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue guidance to police forces on the powers of police community support officers to issue fixed penalty notices; and if she will make a statement. [10888]

Nick Herbert: Police community support officers all have a set of 20 standard powers. They may be granted additional powers at the discretion of the chief officer of their force. There are three standard powers to issue fixed penalty notices (FPN) while five are discretionary. Some FPNs are issued on behalf of local authorities and these are produced in a number of different formats. Hence, training differs between forces, depending on local circumstances. There are no plans by the Home Office to issue guidance to police forces on these powers. The issue of guidance on the use of fixed penalty notices is an operational matter.

Police: Comprehensive Spending Review

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from *(a)* the Audit Commission and *(b)* HM Inspector of Constabulary on the number of frontline police officers for the purpose of informing her Department's submission to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [11112]

Nick Herbert: None. However, HMIC and the Audit Commission published a joint report on 20 July called "Sustaining Value for Money in the Police Service."

Police: Criminal Proceedings

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers were *(a)* disciplined, *(b)* subject to criminal charges, *(c)* given a custodial sentence and *(d)* dismissed for offences under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act 1989 in each of the last 10 years; [11178]

(2) how many police officers were *(a)* subject to criminal charges of, *(b)* given a custodial sentence following conviction for and *(c)* dismissed following conviction for perjury in each of the last 10 years. [11179]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold a central record of the information requested. This is a matter for the Chief Officer of each force.

Police: Domestic Violence

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that police forces give appropriate priority to responding to incidents of domestic violence. [11962]

James Brokenshire: Domestic violence is unacceptable. The Government are developing a strategy to tackle violence against women and girls and this will include domestic violence and within that, the police response.

Serial perpetrators are one of a number of domestic violence issues we are exploring. We will consider the New York policing model, as well as other models and reviews, within these discussions.

A Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009 and was scheduled to run to the end of August 2010. On 16 July, the Home Secretary announced an extension to the pilot until the end of March 2011 and a commitment to find a long-term funding solution to the issue.

The pilot is monitored on a monthly basis and a full evaluation will take place following completion of the pilot.

Police: Manpower

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the number of police officers to be recruited in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Durham constituency consequent on the financial savings arising from the abolition of voluntary identity cards; [10059]

(2) what proportion of the financial savings attributable to the abolition of voluntary identity cards she plans to allocate to recruitment of front-line police officers in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Durham constabulary. [10061]

Nick Herbert: No estimate has been made of the number of police officers to be recruited by any force in England and Wales. Recruitment remains a matter for each Chief Constable.

There are no net savings to the Exchequer in the current financial year from the decision to cancel ID cards. The allocation of savings made from the abolition of ID cards beyond the current financial year is a matter for the spending review.

Police: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* community support officers and *(b)* uniformed police officers have been recruited in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England in each of the last three years. [11628]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the table. Figures exclude officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

Number of police officers and police community support officers (FTE[1]) recruited in North Yorkshire and England[2], 2007-08 to 2009-10[3, 4]

	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
	Officers	*CSO*	*Officers*	*CSO*	*Officers*	*CSO*
North Yorkshire	0	29	0	10	96	28
England	5,640	4,126	7,657	3,114	5,28	2,324

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Figures are for the 39 forces of England.
[3] Financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[4] Recruits include those officers joining as 'Standard Direct Recruits' and those who were 'previously Special Constables'. This excludes officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

Police: Overtime

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much overtime was undertaken in each police force in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost was to each force. [9270]

Nick Herbert: Information about time spent on police overtime is not collected by the Home Office. In respect of the cost of overtime I would refer the right hon. Member to the reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Brigg and Goole (Andrew Percy) on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 80-81W.

Police: Pay

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary is of the *(a)* chief constable and *(b)* deputy chief constable of each police force in England and Wales. [9174]

Nick Herbert: The salaries of commissioners, deputy commissioners, chief constables, deputy chief constables and their equivalents are:

Forces	*As at 1 September 2009 commissioner salary (£)*	*As at 1 September 2009 deputy/assistant commissioner salary (£)*
Metropolitan (MPS)	253,630	[1]209,382
City of London	156,900	[2]129,444

[1] Deputy
[2] Assistant

Forces	*As at 1 September 2009 chief constable salary (£)*	*As at 1 September 2009 deputy chief constable salary (£)*
West Midlands	[1]176,943	[2]135,660
Greater Manchester	[4]—	[4]—
West Yorkshire	165,147	132,120
Thames Valley	156,303	128,949
Merseyside	153,351	126,519
Northumbria	[4]—	[4]—
Hampshire	150,399	124,083
Kent	147,456	121,647
Lancashire	[4]—	[4]—
Devon and Cornwall	[4]—	[4]—
South Yorkshire	144,510	119,217
Essex	[4]—	[4]—
Avon and Somerset	[4]—	[4]—
Sussex	[4]—	[4]—
South Wales	[4]—	[4]—
Nottinghamshire	138,609	[3]114,348
Hertfordshire	135,660	111,918
West Mercia	[4]—	[4]—
Cheshire	[4]—	[4]—
Humberside	[4]—	[4]—
Staffordshire	[4]—	[4]—
Leicestershire	[4]—	[4]—
Derbyshire	[4]—	[4]—
Surrey	132,708	109,485
Norfolk	[4]—	[4]—
Cleveland	129,759	107,052

Forces	*As at 1 September 2009 chief constable salary (£)*	—	*As at 1 September 2009 deputy chief constable salary (£)*
Durham	[4]—		[4]—
Cambridgeshire	[4]—		[4]—
North Wales	[4]—		[4]—
North Yorkshire	[4]—		[4]—
Gwent	[4]—		[4]—
Northamptonshire	[4]—		[4]—
Suffolk	[4]—		[4]—
Dorset	[4]—		[4]—
Wiltshire	[4]—		[4]—
Bedfordshire	[4]—		[4]—
Gloucestershire	126,810		106,167
Lincolnshire	[4]—		[4]—
Cumbria	[4]—		[4]—
Warwickshire	[4]—		[4]—
Dyfed-Powys	[4]—		[4]—

[1] MPS-Assistant commissioners.
[2] MPS-Deputy assistant commissioners.
[3] The Home Secretary agreed in May, on the advice of the Senior Appointments Panel and HMIC, to a request from Nottinghamshire police authority that in the exceptional circumstances of that force a successful candidate for DCC could receive an additional allowance of £21,312.
[4] Indicates brace.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments other than salary payments were made to each *(a)* chief constable and *(b)* deputy chief constable in each police force in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [9265]

Nick Herbert: It is for police authorities to determine payments other than salary payments for individual chief constables and deputy chief constables, in accordance with the provisions in the Police Regulations 2003 and determinations made by the Home Secretary under the Regulations. Information about these payments is held by police authorities and is not currently collected by the Home Office.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment No. 2) (England) Regulations 2009) set out remuneration disclosure requirements which police authorities have to comply with.

Police: Powers

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times police exercised powers under section 22 of the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 to engage in post-charge questioning of terrorist suspects in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and how many times police have exercised such powers in 2010 to date. [8667]

Nick Herbert: The provisions on post-charge questioning in Section 22 of Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 have not been commenced. The police have, therefore, not exercised this power to date. As part of the Government's urgent review of pre-charge detention, the Government will be considering whether and if so how post-charge questioning might be used.

Police: Race Relations

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the amount paid by each police authority to settle *(a)* cases out of court and *(b)* at the conclusion of tribunals where allegations of racism were (i) the main factor and (ii) combined with other factors in each of the last two years. [11904]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not keep data on these figures, and therefore is unable to provide these estimates.

Police: Scotland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has the power to authorise the deployment of additional firearms to police in Scotland. [11861]

Nick Herbert: The Home Secretary does not have the power to authorise the deployment of additional firearms to police in Scotland.

Police: Training

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures her Department has put in place to provide information and training for police forces about the availability and effect of the Foreign Travel Order. [8567]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The Home Office will be publishing updated guidance on the Sex Offenders Act 2003, which includes Foreign Travel Orders, by the end of this year to reflect changes in law brought into effect by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. The Home Office published a circular online highlighting the changes and implementation dates. This can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/home-office-circulars/circulars-2010/005-2010/

These changes have also been communicated to all forces through the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and featured in the ACPO Public Protection Conference in October 2009.

The National Policing Improvement Agency, as part of their Public Protection Learning Programme training programme, provides information and training to Public Protection Unit staff on Foreign Travel Orders.

Rape

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the prevalence of date rape; and if she will make a statement. [11907]

James Brokenshire: According to the British Crime Survey figures for 2007-08 (the most recent year for which data are available) 42% of serious sexual assaults (including rape) were committed by somebody known to the victim. 22% of serious sexual assaults were committed by a person described as a 'friend' or 'date'. The Government are committed to ensuring that all victims of rape are supported and feel able to report to the police and that the conviction rate is increased.

Risk Assessment

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will extend Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference arrangements to all areas. [11954]

James Brokenshire: The Government are developing a strategy to tackle violence against women and girls. This includes domestic violence and will consider MARACs.

Risk Assessment: Domestic Violence

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department plans to make available to maintain each of the existing Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisers in the next three years. [11955]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is providing £3.5 million in 2010-11 to contribute to the funding of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and some wider work to tackle violence against women.

Funding for future years will be considered as part of the comprehensive spending review.

Stop And Search: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many stop and searches were carried out in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available; [10727]

(2) how many stop and searches were carried out on 13 to 19 year olds in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Lambeth, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in (i) each year from 2005 to 2009 and (ii) 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available. [10728]

Nick Herbert: Data on stop and search procedures carried out under various legislation in London and England from 2005-06 to 2008-09 (latest available) are provided in the table.

Data on the number of 13 to 19 year olds searched as well as searches in Lambeth and Streatham constituency are not available as the information on stop and searches reported to the Home Office is broken down by police force area level only, and does not include the ages of persons stopped and searched.

Data on searches in 2009-10 are scheduled to be published in spring 2011.

Number of stop and search procedures[1] conducted in Greater London[2] and England, 2005-06 to 2008-09

	Number of stop and search procedures conducted in:	
Financial year	*England*	*Greater London*
2005-06	931,638	329,686
2006-07	1,002,763	378,333
2007-08	1,181,099	528,939
2008-09	1,469,041	802,761

[1] Includes stops and searches under:
Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)
Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000
[2] Includes the Metropolitan police and City of London police force areas

Telephone Tapping

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to *(a)* detect and *(b)* prevent the incidence of telephone (i) hacking and (ii) blagging. [6336]

Nick Herbert: Section 1 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 provides an offence of unlawful interception. The police and Crown Prosecution Service are independently responsible for investigating and prosecuting such cases of unlawful interception. In some circumstances, 'blagging' or making false representations, whereby an individual pretends to be another person, could be a constituent element of a dishonesty offence.

Terrorism: Arrests

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people identified as being associated with *(a)* Islamic extremist, *(b)* far right extremist and *(c)* dissident republican interests have been arrested on suspicion of offences related to terrorism in each year since 1997. [8822]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collate statistics in this way. However, the Home Office does publish statistics on arrests and outcomes under the Terrorism Act 2000 (Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches). The link to the latest edition of this publication is provided as follows:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1010.pdf

UK Border Agency

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the UK Border Agency has defended at the High Court in each of the last three years. [10578]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not store information in the way requested. However the administrative court has provided the following data showing applications to the High Court where the Secretary of State for the Home Department was listed as the defendant in immigration cases in each of the last three calendar years:

Applications received in the ACO

			Number
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Judicial review civil—immigration asylum only	2,940	1,390	2,440
Judicial review civil—immigration asylum fresh claim	50	1,060	950
Judicial review civil—immigration not asylum	1,310	2,080	2,720
Total	4,310	4,530	6,110

Note:

Figures rounded to the nearest 10; figures do not include reconsiderations against refusals of permission to appeal

The administrative court has also provided the following data showing how many judicial review applications were withdrawn, discontinued or subject to a consent order in each of the last three calendar years.

			Number
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Discontinued/ withdrawn/ consent order	1,680	1,970	2,220

Note:

Figures rounded to the nearest 10; applications may be received in one calendar year but not recorded as withdrawn/discontinued until the following calendar year.

The UK Border Agency seeks to defend all cases either considered on the papers or at an oral hearing that are not discontinued, withdrawn or subject to a consent order.

Vetting and Barring Scheme

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to announce her proposals on the future operation of the Vetting and Barring Scheme. [10877]

Lynne Featherstone: We have already announced our decision to review the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and scale it back to a common sense level. We are agreeing the terms of reference for this review and will announce further details in due course.

Violent and Sex Offender Register: Offences Against Children

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British citizens are registered on the Violent and Sex Offender Register as having committed sexual crimes against children. [9010]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 19 July 2010]*: This question cannot be answered readily and accurately from the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR). This is due to the format in which the information is structured on ViSOR, which means information such as the nationality of the offender or age of victim cannot readily be extracted from the database. In total, on 31 March 2009, there were 32,336 registered sex offenders in England and Wales.

Yvonne Fletcher

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet the Chairman of the Police Federation to discuss Government assistance to police forces to secure the arrest of the killer of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. [9337]

Nick Herbert: Home Office Ministers meet regularly with the Police Federation to discuss issues of concern. The murder of PC Yvonne Fletcher was a terrible crime. The investigation into her murder is continuing and remains an operational matter for the police. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in regular contact with the Metropolitan police service and continues to press the Libyan Government to allow them to return.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Arthritis: Costs

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the cost to the economy of productivity losses consequent on people with rheumatoid arthritis leaving employment; and if he will assess the merits of taking steps to assist such people to remain in work. [8260]

Chris Grayling: The Department has made no estimate of the cost to the economy as a result of productivity losses due to people with rheumatoid arthritis leaving employment.

The Government are committed to helping disabled people and those with health conditions to remain in work. Access to Work provides financial help towards the extra costs faced by people with a disability in work, where this goes beyond what would be reasonable for an employer to meet. Access to Work supported 37,210 disabled people during 2009-10.

Children: Maintenance

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have (i) commissioned and (ii) undertaken on the use and application of the rules on departures and variations. [4773]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Susan Park:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the use of departures and variations within the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement

Commission. As the Child Maintenance Commissioner is currently on annual leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent research (a) his Department and (b) its agencies have (i) commissioned and (ii) undertaken on the use and application of the rules on departures and variations. [4773]

The Department and the Commission have not conducted any formal research in this area. The Commission has, through the Child Support Agency, carried out some interviews with people working in this area to get operational feedback on how variation cases are processed in order to identify concerns and issues.

Previously, when policy responsibility rested with the Department for Work and Pensions, officials met with a range of stakeholders including client representative organisations to discuss problems in the current system and the potential solutions. Subsequently Commission officials have met, and received representations from, client representative groups on an ad-hoc basis to discuss a range of policy issues including variations.

All of these sources of information and ideas are feeding in to the policy work being carried out to develop rules for variations in the future scheme, currently planned to be launched in 2011. Draft regulations for any proposed future scheme, including variations, will be consulted on publicly in advance of implementation.

Council Tax Benefits

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to complete the renaming of council tax benefit as council tax rebate. [11849]

Steve Webb: We cannot commit to a timetable for implementation until we have fully assessed the precise costs and impact of this change. We are engaging with local authorities and their IT suppliers in work to establish the particular delivery implications and associated costs for local authorities. Similar work is being carried out within Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service where there are major implications for IT systems which link to local authorities' systems and play a crucial role in supporting benefit claims.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the monetary value of the contracts between his Department and private sector companies which will be cancelled under his Department's planned spending reductions. [10171]

Chris Grayling: All areas of DWP third party expenditure are under close scrutiny to reduce costs either through contract renegotiation, demand management or collaboration with other departments. This work is being undertaken in accordance with guidance from the Efficiency and Reform Group. Negotiations with major contractors are under way, aligned with the cross-Government approach led by the Cabinet Office. These are not at a stage where estimates of the value of potential contract cancellations have been made.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5967]

Chris Grayling: In accordance with guidance from HM Treasury, the Department maintains records of property that it owns, and which has been lost or stolen. In the past 12 months, no items have been recorded as lost or stolen, and there is therefore no corresponding replacement cost. These records do not include assets which are leased to, but not owned by the Department, for example under contractual arrangements.

Departmental Manpower

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the staff employed by his Department on fixed-term contracts which are coming to an end will be given new contracts; and if he will make a statement. [9938]

Chris Grayling: As at 30 June 2010 the Department and its Agencies employed 12,531 full time equivalent staff on fixed-term appointments.

The overwhelming majority of staff on fixed-term appointments have been recruited to support the increase in workloads as a result of the economic downturn. As the economy improves and as further business efficiencies are introduced, this requirement should reduce. However, if extra staff are needed in a certain location or on a particular project, we will always seek to redeploy any surplus permanent staff wherever possible, and fixed-term contracts will only be extended, or extra staff recruited, where absolutely necessary.

The Department and its Agencies continue to keep staffing levels under close review, including the need to extend fixed-term appointments. At this stage it is not possible to say how many contracts may need to be extended.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7952]

Chris Grayling: The Department has spent £59,436.92 (excluding VAT) on the Government Car Service since the Government took office.

The Department spent £95,872.04 (excluding VAT) on the Government Car Service for the same period in 2009. It has subsequently restricted the number of people who are eligible to use the service to Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and, occasionally, senior officials.

This is a service level agreement, which is a legacy from the previous Government and we are reviewing all expenditure in time for the spending review.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10123]

Chris Grayling: No money has been spent by this Department on hospitality for events hosted by any of its Ministers during May and June 2010.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9815]

Chris Grayling: As my hon. Friend may know, the DWP has committed to contributing £535 million towards the Government's savings target of £6.243 billion, as announced by the Treasury on 24 May 2010. The cost saving will be made from budgets for the Young Persons Guarantee, the Six Month Offer, IT and other project investment, cost reductions from major suppliers, staff savings by implementing a recruitment freeze and not renewing the contracts of some fixed term-appointments, reductions in discretionary spending (which includes business travel and office expenses) and reducing the cost of our buildings.

The DWP will continue to find greater efficiencies throughout the Spending Review in order to meet the spending challenges set by the Treasury. Further details will be available from 20 October.

Departmental Secondment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to increase the number of officials seconded from his Department to EU institutions. [9285]

Chris Grayling: DWP uses its limited budget strategically to support secondees to EU institutions, focusing on areas likely to be of most interest to this Department. Although the Department has no plans to increase the current level of representation at present, officials are working with other Whitehall Departments to develop best practice and improve the effectiveness of existing EU secondments and ensure that both Government and secondees achieve best value from the secondment process.

Disability Living Allowance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he plans to make changes to the system of sanctions taken against those who commit *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error in disability living allowance claims under the proposed new system; [11523]

(2) when he plans to consult disabled people on proposed changes to disability living allowance; and which organisations representing disabled people will be invited to take part in the consultation; [11524]

(3) for what reasons the medical assessment system to be used to assess eligibility for disability living allowance is to be based on the work capability assessment used in relation to employment and support allowance. [11525]

Maria Miller: Commitments were made in the June Budget to reform DLA to ensure it supports those people who are most in need. We will develop a more objective assessment for introduction from 2013-14 and consider how a more transparent system could reduce the scope for fraud and error. The criteria and assessment for disability living allowance are not linked to the capability for work and are therefore distinct from the work capability assessment.

We will talk to disabled people and a broad range of representative organisations to ensure support is effectively targeted on those with greatest need and distributed on a consistent basis, while continuing to tackle the inequalities that can arise from severe disability.

Disability Living Allowance: Medical Examinations

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure compliance with *(a)* the legal duty to make reasonable adjustments under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and *(b)* the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to attendance at medical assessments by claimants of disability living allowance; [11521]

(2) what assessment he plans to make of the compatibility of the proposed changes to the disability living allowance claims forms with *(a)* the legal duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to make reasonable adjustments and *(b)* Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [11522]

Maria Miller: Under the current arrangements for disability living allowance, a small proportion of applicants are requested to undertake an assessment with the Department's medical services contractor. Arrangements are made to ensure accessibility by offering an assessment in the customer's home or at a medical examination centre.

The Government's approach to reform of the assessment for disability living allowance will continue to be based on the key principle of fairness, and ensuring disabled people have the same opportunities as everyone else in society. This is an essential component of social justice, which is at the heart of this Department's agenda.

The details of the new assessment are currently under development but will be designed from the beginning to meet our obligations under the United Nations convention and our duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, ensuring that the impact on disabled people is given full consideration. To assist with the development process, and recognising our obligations under the UN convention, we will engage with external partners, including disabled people and their organisations.

Disability Living Allowance: Mental Illness

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to revise the eligibility criteria for disability living allowance for people with mental health or behavioural conditions. [9868]

Maria Miller: We will reform Disability Living Allowance to ensure it supports those people with the highest needs, on a consistent and transparent basis. We will introduce a more objective assessment from 2013-14 and as we develop our proposals we will talk to both disabled people and a broad range of organisations, including those representing people with mental health and behavioural conditions.

Employment: Lone Parents

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist lone parents into work. [9566]

Maria Miller: Supporting lone parents into paid work is essential to our strategy for the eradication of child poverty. As well as maintaining and building the necessary culture and infrastructure around provision of childcare and promotion of flexible working, the coalition Government will introduce a single work programme in the first half of 2011, which offers all benefit recipients, including lone parents, personalised help, delivered by contractors drawn from the private, public and voluntary sectors, as well as social enterprises.

We are also increasing the requirement on lone parents with older children to seek work, in line with their caring responsibilities. Currently, lone parents whose youngest child is 10 or over and who are not in paid work must ordinarily claim jobseeker's allowance and look for work, or employment and support allowance and undergo a work capability assessment. Before that, they can claim income support. The age of the youngest child will be reduced to seven in October 2010, and the June 2010 Budget announced that it would be lowered to when the youngest child enters school or formal education. We plan to implement this change in 2011-12, subject to passage of the relevant primary legislation.

Lone parents with children under the age of 13 can restrict their availability for work to their children's school hours, and non-availability of childcare must be taken into account by benefit decision-makers when considering whether a parent had good cause for turning down an offer of employment.

Lone parents with younger children are not required to seek work, but if they wish to return to work, pre-employment and in-work support is available through specialist Lone Parent Advisers.

In recognition of the difficulties lone parents caring for disabled children may encounter in returning to work, regulations provide that lone parents on income support with a child aged fifteen or under who have a child receiving the middle or higher care component of disability living allowance are not required to seek work in return for benefit.

Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force: Expenditure

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse was of the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force in each year since 2004. [10081]

Maria Miller: The Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force does not have a specific budget. Secretariat support is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions as part of its general functions and the cost of this support is not separately identified. This taskforce is a non-departmental public body and is therefore subject to the review currently being undertaken by the Cabinet Office.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse was of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Group in each year since 2006. [10082]

Maria Miller: The Ethnic Minority Advisory Group is an independent advisory group to Government and has no specific budget and members receive no remuneration. Secretariat support is provided by my Department as part of its general functions and there are some small costs in hiring accommodation for meetings, covering travelling expenses, but these are not separately identified

Funerals: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value of reclaimed funeral payments in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough has been in each year since 2000. [9697]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 22 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 549W.

Housing Benefit

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the level of over-occupation in social sector housing in respect of which the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [5177]

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in Stretford and Urmston constituency among households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [5858]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in Makerfield constituency among households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [6053]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency in households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [6057]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the extent of over-occupation in social sector housing in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency in households where the main tenant is in receipt of housing benefit. [6151]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. The Department for Work and Pensions does not collect information on dwelling size for all housing benefit recipients.

Information on housing occupancy rates generally is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of Sate for Communities and Local Government.

The English Housing Survey in 2008-09 showed that 258,000 (6.7%) of all social rented households and 164,000 (5.4%) of all private rented households in England were over-occupied as measured by the bedroom standard.

The bedroom standard is essentially the difference between the number of bedrooms needed to avoid undesirable sharing (given the number and ages of household members and their relationships to each other) and the number of bedrooms actually available to the household.

Source:

Figures on over-occupation are taken from Table 6: 'Overcrowding and under-occupation by tenture' from the English Housing Survey, 2008-09.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of non-dependants living in households in which the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [5184]

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in West Lancashire constituency. [5628]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [6148]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency. [6190]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [6056]

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Stretford and Urmston constituency. [5857]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Makerfield constituency. [6050]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely saving to the public purse due to reductions in the sums allocated to fund temporary private sector accommodation as a result of setting local housing allowance rates at the 30th percentile of local rents for each year for April 2012 for which figures are available. [5618]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Housing benefit subsidy for people in temporary accommodation is considered separately from mainstream local housing allowance rates and reviewed annually.

The proposal to set local housing allowance rates at the 30th percentile, from October 2011, would not affect housing benefit subsidy levels for private sector leased temporary accommodation before April 2012. This is because, under existing legislation, housing benefit subsidy levels for this type of temporary accommodation are based on a formula that uses local housing allowance rates for the January preceding each relevant financial year. Therefore subsidy levels until April 2012 would be based on local housing allowance rates before the proposed changes take effect.

Subsidy levels from April 2012, including the method used to calculate them, have not yet been decided.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families in each status category receive housing benefit. [7275]

Steve Webb: The available information is published in the First Release DWP Statistical Summary Table 1.1. The most recent edition was published on 14 July 2010; a copy has been placed in the Library.

The First Release DWP Statistical Summary is also available online at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_summary/stats_summary_jul2010.pdf

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of claimants of housing benefit in *(a)* England and *(b)* Doncaster (i) are claimants of jobseeker's allowance and (ii) have claimed jobseeker's allowance for 12 months or more. [8967]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

Information is collected on the number of housing benefit claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, and the available information on the number who are also receiving income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)) in England and Doncaster metropolitan borough council is in the following table. However to provide the total number of JSA claimants receiving housing benefit and the duration of their claims would require a significant exercise to merge the relevant data and would incur a disproportionate cost.

The available information is shown in the following table.

Recipients of housing benefit, in England and Doncaster council, who are also receiving JSA(IB): April 2010

	All	*JSA (IB)*	*Percentage with JSA (IB)*
England	4,044,270	494,190	12.2
Doncaster council	25,770	3,610	14.0

Notes:

1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Passported status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.
3. Passported benefit as recorded on systems within the local authority.
4. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to one decimal place.

Source:

Single housing benefit extract (SHBE).

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those affected by the reduction in housing benefit to 90% after 12 months on benefit, as announced in the June 2010 Budget, are estimated to be *(a)* families with children and *(b)* lone parents. [10409]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

We are developing the detailed policy design for the measure announced in the June 2010 Budget to reduce housing benefit by 10% after 12 months for those customers who are also in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. We shall publish impact assessments to accompany the relevant legislation when it is introduced in Parliament and are investigating the scope for publishing sooner.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to monitor the effect of his proposed changes to housing benefit. [10982]

Steve Webb: We will monitor the impact of the changes to housing benefit announced in the emergency Budget through housing benefit data we routinely collect from local authorities. We will also be discussing with other Government Departments and the devolved Administrations other ways we might monitor the wider impact of these changes.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to review the housing benefit budget in respect of *(a)* supported and *(b)* sheltered accommodation. [11220]

Steve Webb: There is no separate budget for these types of accommodation. However the Department is currently reviewing the way they are assessed within the housing benefit system.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households are in receipt of local housing allowance in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* broad rental market area. [11283]

Steve Webb: The Department does collect some management information on Broad Rental Market Areas but this has not been sufficiently quality assured below national level to use in any departmental briefing or external publication, including a parliamentary question. To do so for the purposes of this parliamentary question would incur disproportionate cost.

The available local authority information has been placed in the Library.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in households in receipt of local housing allowance are *(a)* in work, *(b)* unemployed, *(c)* retired, *(d)* parents with dependent children and *(e)* permanently sick or disabled. [11284]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the format requested.

The available information is in the table.

Number of local housing allowance tenants in Great Britain by family type—April 2010

Local housing allowance recipients	*Number*
All	1,043,860
Couple with child dependant(s)	155,210
Single with child dependant(s)	325,010
Aged 65 and over	54,030

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Tenure type does not include recipients with unknown tenure type.
3. Local housing allowance (LHA) tenants may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either: (a) the recipient if they are single, or (b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of households in receipt of local housing allowance *(a)* make an additional payment to cover the difference between benefit received and rent paid, *(b)* keep the difference between the rent paid and benefit received and *(c)* pay the same amount in rent as their housing benefit in each local authority area; [11285]

(2) how many and what proportion of households in receipt of local housing allowance *(a)* make an additional payment to cover the difference between benefit received and rent paid, *(b)* keep the difference between the rent paid and benefit received and *(c)* pay the same amount in rent as their housing benefit in each broad rental market area. [11286]

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people receiving housing benefit and local housing allowance receive less in benefit than their rent. [11412]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at sub-national level.

In August 2009 in Great Britain, among customers receiving housing benefit under the local housing allowance arrangements, 48% had a shortfall of £23 per week on average and 44% had an excess of £11 per week on average. This relates to shortfalls or excesses caused by a customer's contractual rent being higher or lower than the appropriate local housing allowance rate. 8% of customers paid the same amount of rent as they received in local housing allowance.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average housing benefit payment is for households in *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* the social housing sector. [11410]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the table.

Housing benefit recipients average weekly award by tenure in Great Britain, April 2010

	Tenure type						
	Social rented sector			*Private rented sector*			
						Private deregulated tenants	
All HB recipients	*Total*	*LA tenants*	*Registered social landlord tenants*	*Total*	*Private regulated tenants*	*Local housing allowance tenants*	*Non-local housing allowance tenants*
84.24	73.04	67.86	77.43	109.74	76.10	113.38	103.94

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Tenure type does not include recipients with unknown tenure type.
3. Local housing allowance tenants may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
4. Average awards are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE).

Table taken from table 5 of publication at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_jul10.xls

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average housing benefit payment is for households in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* the UK. [11411]

Steve Webb: Information for Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The available information is in the table.

Average weekly housing benefit payment, April 2010

	£
North West (Government Office Region)	73.28
Great Britain	84.34

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Average amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE).

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receiving housing benefit are living in poverty. [11413]

Steve Webb: The latest information is available from the Family Resources survey, 2008-09. Of the estimated 6.5 million individuals in families who recorded receipt of housing benefit, the number who were living in households with income below 60% of median household income in 2008-09 was 2.6 million (40%) before housing costs and 3.9 million (60%) after housing costs.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources survey (FRS).

2. The reference period for HBAI figures is single financial years.

3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

4. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.

5. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are.

6. The FRS is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment has been made of the effects on tenants in the private rented sector of proposed reductions in housing benefit; [11415]

(2) how many people will receive reduced housing benefit payment because of the proposed cap on local housing allowance; [11416]

(3) what equality impact assessment has been made of the proposed cap on local housing allowance; [11417]

(4) what assessment has been made of the effects on young people of the proposed reductions in housing benefit. [11440]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Sunderland who will be affected by the proposed changes to housing benefit; and whether he has made an estimate of the average change in housing benefit payments to such people under his Department's proposals. [11011]

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth were in receipt of housing benefit of more than £400 a month in the latest period for which figures are available. [11872]

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households are in receipt of housing benefit *(a)* at the five bedroom rate and *(b)* of more than £400 per week for a five bedroom property in England. [11282]

Steve Webb: The Department published an Equality Impact Assessment on 'Changes to the Local Housing Allowance arrangements and Housing Benefit size criteria for people with non-resident overnight carers' and a separate document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July 2010. A copy of these has been placed in the Library.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will provide transitional measures to those on low incomes who have reduced incomes as a result of proposed reductions in housing benefit. [11436]

Steve Webb: Existing housing benefit customers will not normally be affected by changes to the local housing allowance rates until the anniversary of their claim. This could be up to a year after the changes come into effect.

The Department for Work and Pensions will provide practical support for local authorities and welfare advisers to ensure that a comprehensive and consistent communication strategy is developed for people in receipt of housing benefit who may face a reduction in entitlement.

The Government will provide additional funding for discretionary housing payments. This will be an additional £10 million in 2011-12 and £40 million a year thereafter. This will help local authorities target additional funding to those customers who they feel need the most support.

The Department is working with other Government Departments and the devolved Administrations to explore strategies that can be adopted to ease the process for households seeking and moving to alternative accommodation.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the effects on levels of youth unemployment of changes to non-dependent deductions in housing benefit. [11437]

Steve Webb: We shall publish an impact assessment for the changes to non-dependent deductions announced in the Budget to accompany the relevant legislation when it is introduced in Parliament. We plan to announce the rates for 2011/12 as part of the annual uprating exercise.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make reductions in housing benefit only in cases where tenants are offered suitable alternative accommodation. [11438]

Steve Webb: The measures that will be introduced in 2011 to reduce housing benefit expenditure will apply in all relevant cases, not just where tenants are offered alternative accommodation.

The change that will restrict housing benefit for working age tenants in the social rented sector who live in a property that is too large for their needs will require primary legislation. It is too early to say how the 2013 change might be designed, but my Department will be working with the Department for Communities and Local Government to identify a range of options and we will consult as we develop the proposals and during the legislative process.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households will be affected by the proposal to limit working age housing benefit entitlement to reflect housing size. [11439]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

The detailed policy design of this change is still being developed. Impact assessments, including the number of households affected, will be published to accompany the relevant legislation when it is introduced in Parliament.

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Budget Red Book, page 40, Table 2.1, how the figures in lines 29 to 36 were calculated. [11633]

Steve Webb: The assumptions and methodologies underlying policy costings for the June 2010 Budget have been published. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish draft regulations for the implementation of the housing benefit proposals in the June 2010 Budget. [11635]

Steve Webb: The Department has referred draft legislation which would give effect to the changes to local housing allowance rates in 2011 to the Social Security Advisory Committee. We will also be consulting with the Local Authority Associations in the normal way.

Housing Benefit: Camden

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in the London borough of Camden have been claiming the maximum level of local housing allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of those people are in work. [11937]

Steve Webb: In April 2010, our records show that there were no housing benefit recipients in the London borough of Camden receiving the maximum level of local housing allowance of £1,800 per week.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract for April 2010.

Housing Benefit: Disability

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government's proposals for changes to housing benefit will apply to households where one or more individual has a disability. [10272]

Steve Webb: The Government intend to apply the housing benefit changes announced in the Emergency Budget to households where one or more people have a disability, as appropriate depending on the individual measure.

However, the Government will provide additional funding for discretionary housing payments. This will be an additional £10 million in 2011-12 and £40 million a year thereafter. This will help local authorities target additional funding to those customers who they feel need the most support.

Housing Benefit: Doncaster

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households receive housing benefit of more than *(a)* £250 per week for a one bedroom property, *(b)* £290 per week for a two bedroom property, *(c)* £340 per week for a three bedroom property and *(d)* £400 per week for a four bedroom property in Doncaster; [8968]

(2) how many households receive housing benefit of more than *(a)* £53 per week for a one room property, *(b)* £74.79 per week for a one bedroom property, *(c)* £90 per week for a two bedroom property, *(d)* £97.81 per week for a three bedroom property and *(e)* £132.33 per week for a four bedroom property in Doncaster. [8969]

Steve Webb: At March 2010, for housing benefit claims assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements in the Doncaster local authority, our records show that there were:

No households with a one-bedroom entitlement receiving over £250 per week;

No households with a two-bedroom entitlement receiving over £290 per week;

No households with a three-bedroom entitlement receiving over £340 per week; and

No households with a four or five-bedroom entitlement receiving over £400 per week;

660 households with a one-room entitlement receiving over £53 per week;

1,520 households with a one-bedroom entitlement receiving over £74.79 per week;

1,730 households with a two-bedroom entitlement receiving over £90 per week;

550 households with a three-bedroom entitlement receiving over £97.81 per week; and

70 households with a four or five-bedroom entitlement receiving over £132.33 per week.

Notes:

1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

2. The Single Housing Benefit Extract does not have bedroom entitlement recorded in 5% of the Local Housing Allowance cases in Doncaster so there may be some underestimation in the numbers reported.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the numbers of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* single parent families, *(c)* families in the lowest income decile, *(d)* individuals on disability living allowance, *(e)* individuals on incapacity benefit and *(f)* asylum claimants in (i) the London borough of Camden, (ii) the London borough of Brent and (iii) the Greater London area who will be adversely affected as a result of proposed reductions in housing benefit. [11063]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department published an equality impact assessment for the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates on 23 July 2010. This contains an assessment of the impact of changes by gender, disability, age, race and on families. A copy has been placed in the Library.

We are developing the detailed policy design of the other housing benefit changes announced in the Budget. We shall publish impact assessments to accompany the relevant legislation when it is introduced in Parliament and are investigating the scope for publishing sooner.

Housing Benefit: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age who are unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants receiving housing benefit there were in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) the Peterborough City Council area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [11294]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at the constituency level.

Information on whether a claimant of housing benefit is in employment or not in employment is not available. The available information for Peterborough city council area is in the following tables.

Housing benefit (HB) recipients, split by working age/elderly, as at August 2003 to August 2007: Peterborough city council

As at August:	All housing benefit recipients	Elderly	Working age
2003	10,840	4,260	6,570
2004	10,990	4,240	6,750
2005	11,500	4,240	7,250
2006	11,680	4,220	7,450
2007	12,030	4,240	7,790

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Working age/elderly spilt is unavailable prior to August 2003.
5. Elderly is defined as claimants in receipt of the following Passported Benefit, as recorded on the Local Authority computer system: Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit and Minimum Income Guarantee prior to October 2003). If the claim is not passported then a claimant is counted as elderly if they are aged 60 or over.
6. Working Age is defined as claimants in receipt of the following Passported Benefits, as recorded on the Local Authority computer system: Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance (Income-Based). If the claim is not passported then a claimant is counted as working age if they are aged under 60.
7. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100% taken in August 2003 to August 2007

Housing benefit recipients, split by age group, as at November 2008, August 2009 and April 2010: Peterborough city council

	All Housing benefit recipients	Aged 65 and over	Aged under 65
November 2008	13,030	3,500	9,530
August 2009	14,610	3,550	11,050
April 2010	15,360	3,520	11,840

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and April 2010 are the most recent available.
4. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either: (a) the recipient if they are single, or (b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.
5. The data for November 2008 to April 2010 are not comparable to data between August 2003 and August 2007 due to different definitions.
6. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Housing benefit recipients, August 2001 to August 2007, by tenancy type: Peterborough city council

As at August:	All Housing benefit recipients	Social rented sector	Private rented sector
2001	11,240	9,230	2,010
2002	11,060	9,140	1,910
2003	10,840	9,040	1,790

Housing benefit recipients, August 2001 to August 2007, by tenancy type: Peterborough city council

As at August	*All Housing benefit recipients*	*Social rented sector*	*Private rented sector*
2004	10,990	9,030	1,960
2005	11,500	9,200	2,300
2006	11,680	9,060	2,620
2007	12,030	8,940	3,090

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing Benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.
5. Social Rented Sector includes Local authority and Registered Social Landlord tenants. Private Rented Sector includes Private Regulated and Private Deregulated tenants.
6. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100% taken in August 2001 to August 2007

Housing benefit recipients as at November 2008, August 2009 and April 2010, by tenancy type: Peterborough city council

	All Housing benefit recipients	*Social rented sector*	*Private rented sector*
November 2008	13,030	9,350	3,680
August 2009	14,610	9,910	4,690
April 2010	15,360	10,290	5,060

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Components may not sim to total due to (i) independent rounding (ii) exclusion of unknown and other small categories.
4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and April 2010 are the most recent available.
5. Social Rented Sector includes Local authority and Registered Social Landlord tenants. Private Rented Sector includes Private Regulated and Private Deregulated tenants.
6. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Housing Benefit: Wigan

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are receiving housing benefit in Wigan. [11414]

Steve Webb: In April 2010 there were 24,550 housing benefit claimants in the metropolitan borough of Wigan.

The information is readily available on the internet in table 2 of the publication at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_jul10.xls

Notes:

1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. April 2010 represents the latest data held.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE).

Industrial Injuries

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people unable to work as the result of an injury at work in each year since 1997. [8184]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available from data collected by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Jobcentre Plus: Edinburgh

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 417-18W, on Jobcentre Plus: Edinburgh, how many of the 66 members of staff on fixed term contracts will have their contracts renewed in the future. [12013]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many of the 66 members of staff on fixed-term contracts in Edinburgh will have their contracts renewed in the future. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As a public sector organisation, Jobcentre Plus needs to review its staffing position regularly. We are currently undertaking such a review and would expect to reach firmer conclusions in several weeks time on possible future extensions of people on fixed-term appointments. Staffing and spending plans for Jobcentre Plus will be dependent on the levels to be announced on 20 October 2010 in the Spending Review settlement set out by HM Treasury. Therefore, I am unable to answer your specific question at this time.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of Jobcentre Plus jobs of the implementation of proposals in the June 2010 Budget; [10993]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of frontline Jobcentre plus posts in the next two years. [11020]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking i) what estimate he has made of the change in the number of Jobcentre Plus jobs resulting from the proposals in the June 2010 budget; and ii) what estimate he has made of the change in the number of frontline Jobcentre Plus posts in the next two years. These are issues that fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The impact of the proposals in the June 2010 budget will be a staffing reduction in Jobcentre Plus of 2,000 full time equivalents in 2010/11. That figure comprises a headcount efficiency of 1,000 people, with the remaining reduction of 1,000 people being due to falling work volumes. However, we continue to monitor workloads and economic forecasts, and Jobcentre Plus staffing levels are reviewed on a regular basis as part of that.

Future staffing and spending plans for Jobcentre Plus will be dependent on the levels to be announced on 20 October 2010 in the Spending Review settlement set out by HM Treasury.

I hope that this is helpful.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of proposed staffing changes at Jobcentre plus on the ability of Jobcentre Plus Centres to help those on incapacity benefit back into work; and if he will take steps to alleviate any negative effects of any such changes on such activities. [11036]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment been made of the effect of proposed staffing changes at jobcentre plus on the ability of Jobcentre Plus Centres to help those on incapacity benefit back into work; and if we are taking any steps to alleviate any negative effects of any such changes on such activities.

The impact of the proposals in the June 2010 budget will be a staffing reduction in Jobcentre Plus of 2,000 full time equivalents in 2010/11. However, we continue to monitor workloads and economic forecasts and Jobcentre Plus staffing levels are reviewed on a regular basis as part of that. We have developed plans to ensure that these headcount changes will not negatively affect Jobcentre Plus' ability to help incapacity benefit claimants back to work.

Future staffing and spending plans for Jobcentre Plus will be dependent on the levels to be announced on 20 October 2010 in the Spending Review settlement set out by HM Treasury. However, we will ensure that plans are in place to support incapacity benefits claimants following these decisions.

I hope that this is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Temporary Employment

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff are employed on temporary contracts in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland. [11881]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff are employed on temporary contracts in a) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency; b) South Lanarkshire; and c) Scotland. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Office for National Statistics defines temporary staff as those on a fixed-term appointment of less than 12 months. However, Jobcentre Plus also uses fixed-term appointments for longer periods of employment. The table below sets out the position based on the three locations you requested.

Jobcentre Plus staff employed on temporary contracts in Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency; South Lanarkshire; and Scotland (March 2010)

Location	*Fixed-term appointments of less than 12 months*	*Fixed-term appointments of more than 12 months*
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	1	27
South Lanarkshire	1	42
Scotland	147	765

Notes:

1. Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using ONS definitions for counting headcount and details the latest published data at March 2010.

2. Figures have been rounded to whole numbers.

3. The Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency comprises three Jobcentre Plus offices: Cambuslang, Hamilton and Rutherglen that fall within South Lanarkshire. The other two offices that make up South Lanarkshire are East Kilbride and Lanark.

Source:

Dataview, Jobcentre Plus

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of contacted claimants attended the mandatory back to work session for claimants of jobseeker's allowance in response to the first request from Jobcentre Plus in the latest period for which figures are available; [10946]

(2) what requirement there is on Jobcentre Plus offices to provide for a security guard to attend mandatory back to work sessions for claimants of jobseeker's allowance; [10947]

(3) what training Jobcentre Plus staff conducting the mandatory back to work session for claimants in receipt of jobseeker's allowance are required to undergo; [11001]

(4) whether the content of the mandatory back to work session for claimants in receipt of jobseeker's allowance is devised *(a)* centrally or *(b)* at local level; [11002]

(5) what provision his Department has made to collate feedback from those attending at mandatory back to work sessions for claimants in receipt of jobseeker's allowance; [11003]

(6) if he will direct Jobcentre Plus staff to distribute *(a)* travel cost claim forms and *(b)* My Three Step Plan packs at each mandatory back to work session for claimants in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [11004]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your parliamentary questions about Back to Work Sessions as these fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

With regard to your first question, data is not available on this aspect of Jobcentre Plus performance.

With regard to your second question, there is no central requirement to have a security guard in attendance at Back to Work Sessions. However, we take the health and safety of our staff and customers very seriously. Each location where we run Back to Work sessions is subject to a formal Risk Assessment on which we consult staff health and safety representatives.

Additionally, and in response to your third question, before running a Back to Work Session all facilitators must have completed a bespoke learning and development package called Presenting and Facilitating Group Sessions. These sessions are designed to support those delivering the various group sessions available to our customers. The aim of the event is to provide our staff with the skills required to deliver Group Sessions to our Customers. This event gives them the necessary skills and knowledge to research, prepare and deliver group sessions.

With regard to your question about content, Back to Work Sessions are designed to raise awareness of the local labour market - employers recruiting; jobs available; travel to work areas, etc - and the help available to improve job prospects; and remind customers of their responsibilities to actively seek work and take-up opportunities made available. To support delivery, material is available centrally to ensure the consistency of basic information and key messages and is then tailored locally to give the presentation greater relevance to the local labour market.

We welcome customer feedback, as it helps us to improve our service. Nationally, Back to Work Sessions have been, and continue to be, evaluated and the results are encouraging. Most customers have viewed the sessions favourably, particularly where they have been interactive and of local relevance. Feedback has also highlighted areas where they could be better and this has led to service delivery improvements. Similarly, offices will seek and act upon customer feedback locally to help assess and improve their Back to Work Sessions.

In terms of travel expenses, we aim to run Back to Work Sessions so they coincide with the normal requirements to attend the Jobcentre for a jobsearch review. This means customers are not required to make an additional journey and do not incur additional travel expenses, so reimbursement is inappropriate. However, where this is not possible and in circumstances where customers are entitled to a reimbursement, this should be made clear at the outset of the session; and payment made promptly. I have asked for operational guidance to be reviewed and clarified in this respect.

Finally, the 3-Step Plan is an integral part of the Back to Work Session. The guidance issued to Jobcentre Plus staff states quite clearly that each attendee must be issued with a copy of the 3-Step Plan and encouraged to complete it as fully as possible. The guidance also instructs staff to encourage attendees to access the Jobseeker pages of the Direct Gov website where they can find practical help and advice when applying for jobs.

I hope this reply is helpful and assures you of our intent to provide people with the best possible service.

Local Housing Allowance

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families resident in Dundee East constituency will be affected by changes to the rate of local housing allowance from October 2011; and by how much on average per household. [10531]

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families resident in Moray constituency will be affected by changes to the local housing allowance rate from October 2011; and if he will estimate the average amount of reduction for each such family. [10446]

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families resident in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency will be affected by changes ot the rate of local housing allowance from October 2011; and by how much on average per household. [10520]

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families resident in Angus constituency will be affected by changes to the rate of local housing allowance from October 2011; and by how much on average per household. [10529]

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families resident in Banff and Buchan constituency will be affected by changes to the rate of local housing allowance from October 2011; and by how much on average per household. [10542]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit Proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on the 23 July, which includes analysis at the local authority level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Maintenance: Children

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure payment of child maintenance arrears owed to single parents in Redditch constituency. [10454]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Susan Park:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. As the Child Maintenance Commissioner is currently on annual leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to ensure payment of child maintenance arrears owed to single parents in Redditch constituency. [10454]

In the 12 months to March 2010, £1,910,000 in child maintenance was collected and arranged for parents with care in Redditch constituency. As at March 2010, £6,720,000 in arrears was owed on cases where the parent with care is resident in Redditch constituency. £3,718,000 of this is owed specifically to the parent with care with the remainder owed to the Secretary of State.

Outstanding maintenance arrears were down from £3,828 million in March 2009 to £3,761 in March 2010. The rate of arrears during 2004/05 was increasing by around £23 million per month. In the 12 months to March 2010 arrears reduced on average by £5.6m per month.

The Coalition Government has said that tackling the issue of outstanding child maintenance arrears is a high priority and the Commission is reviewing its strategy and plans for pursuing arrears in light of this. In addition, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced in the House of Commons on 14 June 2010 that the Commission would set a new target for the collection of arrears. The Commission is working with Ministers to agree a suitable level for this target.

In the meantime the Commission is deploying its range of enforcement measures to collect arrears, including deducting money directly from bank accounts, seizing properties through Order for Sale action and preventing or reversing the transfer of assets from a non-resident parent with outstanding arrears to another person in order to evade child maintenance.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire Jobcentre Plus district received support for mortgage interest in each of the last 12 months; and how many of each were in receipt of (i) income support, (ii) jobseeker's allowance and (iii) pension credit. [11880]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the table.

Claimants of income support, jobseeker's allowance and pension credit in receipt of support for mortgage interest (SMI), by parliamentary constituency, local/unitary authority and Jobcentre Plus district at November 2009

	Total with SMI	*Income support with SMI*	*Jobseeker's allowance with SMI*	*Pension credit with SMI*
Rutherglen and Hamilton West Parliamentary Constituency	0.7	*0.2	—	0.5
South Lanarkshire Unitary Authority	2.1	*0.5	*0.1	1.6
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire Jobcentre Plus District	5.1	1.1	*0.4	3.6

Notes:
1. Figures are displayed in thousands and rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) totals.
4. Support for mortgage interest can only be claimed on income based jobseeker's allowance.
5. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003.
5. Monthly figures are not available. Quarterly information is available but as local authorities and Jobcentre Plus districts change over time the latest available data have been provided.
6. Figures marked with (*) are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.
7. "—" Denotes nil or negligible.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

Occupational Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who would be exempted from the requirement to pay into a workplace pension consequent on the exemption of those over *(a)* 50 and *(b)* 55 years from requirement for automatic enrolment due to begin in 2012. [11850]

Steve Webb: The current policy is that from 2012, workers between the age of 22 and state pension age, with annual earnings in at least one job of more than £5,035 (2006-07 earnings terms) will be eligible for automatic enrolment into a qualifying pension scheme, unless they are already participating in such a scheme.

Our current assumptions indicate that around 10 million -11 million people will be eligible for automatic enrolment in a workplace pension scheme from 2012. An estimate of the numbers of people who would be exempted from the requirement to pay into a workplace pension consequent on the exemption of those aged over 50 and 55 in 2012, is provided in the following table.

Number for people who would be exempted from automatic enrolment

	Million
Excluding those aged over 50	2-3
Excluding those aged over 55	1-2

Note:
Ranges are rounded to the nearest million

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who would be excluded from the requirement to pay into a workplace pension consequent on the exemption of those small and medium-sized enterprises with under *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 20, *(d)* 30, *(e)* 40, *(f)* 50 and *(g)* 100 employees from the requirement for automatic enrolment due to begin in 2012. [11851]

Steve Webb: The current policy is that from 2012, workers between the age of 22 and state pension age, with annual earnings in at least one job of more than £5,035 (2006-07 earnings terms) will be eligible for automatic enrolment into a qualifying pension scheme, unless they are already participating in such a scheme.

Our current assumptions indicate that around 10 million -11 million people will be eligible for automatic enrolment in a workplace pension scheme from 2012. An estimate of the numbers of people who would no longer be eligible for automatic enrolment if small and medium sized enterprises with under five, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 100 employees were exempted from the duty to automatically enrol their workers is provided in the following table.

million

	Number for people who would no longer be eligible for automatic enrolment	*New total eligible for automatic enrolment*
Excluding those with under five employees	2	8-9
Excluding those with under 10 employees	3	7-8
Excluding those with under 20 employees	3-4	7
Excluding those with under 30 employees	4	6-7
Excluding those with under 40 employees	4-5	6
Excluding those with under 50 employees	5	5-6
Excluding those with under 100 employees	5-6	5

Note:
Ranges are rounded to the nearest million

Office for Budget Responsibility: Employment

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has been consulted by the Office for Budget Responsibility on its employment forecasts. [9564]

Chris Grayling: The Office for Budget Responsibility produces its employment forecasts independently of Government. Department for Work and Pensions staff were not consulted on them.

Pension Credit

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to uprate pension credit by a level no less than that of earnings in each year of the 2010 Parliament. [11808]

Steve Webb: There is a statutory requirement that the pension credit standard minimum guarantee will be up-rated at least in line with earnings.

Pensioners: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in (i) Bedfordshire and (ii) Mid Bedfordshire constituency. [11814]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Area	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Mid Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency	17,990	3,400	2,760
Bedford Unitary Authority	72,580	16,460	13,510

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Rutherglen

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency are in receipt of *(a)* the state pension, *(b)* pension credit and *(c)* winter fuel allowance. [11898]

Steve Webb: In winter 2008-09, the latest year for which information is available, 18,980 people received a winter fuel payment in Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency.

The information for state pension and pension credit is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency Rutherglen and Hamilton West

	Number
State pension recipients	17,940
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	8,440
Pension credit household recipients constituency	6,870

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figure provided is the total state pension caseload.
3. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
4. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to increase the level of those allowances paid to pensioners for which his Department is responsible. [11622]

Steve Webb: The statutory framework governing the annual uprating of benefits and pensions currently requires that all components of state pension, with the exception of the 25p age addition, must at a minimum be increased in line with annual growth in prices and that the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit must at a minimum be increased in line with annual growth in average earnings.

The coalition Government will re-link the basic state pension to earnings from 2011 and we are providing a triple guarantee that the basic state pension will rise each year by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%. For 2011, we will additionally ensure that the increase will not be lower then it would have been under the previous uprating arrangements.

Pensions: Index Linking

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the use of the consumer price index to calculate final salary pensions; and if he will make a statement. [10495]

Steve Webb: I would refer the hon. Member to my answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 118W.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in expenditure in the Financial Assistance Scheme attributable to the use of the consumer prices index for pension indexation in the next five years. [11057][1]

Steve Webb: The figures show the estimated annual reduction in Financial Assistance Scheme expenditure as a result of switching the indexation of payments in payment and revaluation of payments in deferment from RPI to CPI from 2011.

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[1] *[Official Report, 6 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 2MC.]*

Figures are in cash terms and are rounded to the nearest £100,000. The reduction represents 0.1% of estimated total FAS spending in each year.

	CPI from 2011 (£)
2011	100,000
2012	300,000
2013	700,000
2014	1,300,000
2015	2,200,000

Data and modelling limitations mean it is not possible to provide details of the saving for indexation only. However we estimate that the saving relating to revaluation would be greater than that for indexation.

Pensions: Uprating

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* level of the basic state pension and *(b)* value of the retail price index uprating applied to it was in each year since 1989; and if he will estimate that level had that pension been uprated in line with the consumer price index in each such year. [11860]

Steve Webb: The coalition Government are providing a triple guarantee that the basic state pension will rise each year by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%. For 2011, we will additionally ensure that the increase will not be lower then it would have been under the previous uprating arrangements.

The information requested is provided in the following table. An estimate for CPI inflation in September 1988 is unavailable.

In April 1994, April 2001, April 2002, April 2003 and April 2010 the basic state pension was increased by more than the value for RPI in the relevant period. The third column provides the rate the basic state pension would have been if only RPI had been used to increase it. There is no increase in April 2010 as RPI inflation was negative in the relevant period.

Date of Uprating	*Rate of basic state pension, £ per week*	*Rate if RPI used, £ per week*	*Rate if CPI used, £ per week*
April 1989	43.60	—	—
April 1990	46.90	46.90	45.85
April 1991	52.00	52.00	49.55
April 1992	54.15	54.15	53.05
April 1993	56.10	56.10	54.65
April 1994	57.60	57.10	56.30
April 1995	58.85	58.35	57.15
April 1996	61.15	60.65	58.85
April 1997	62.45	61.90	60.20
April 1998	64.70	64.15	61.30
April 1999	66.75	66.20	62.15
April 2000	67.50	66.95	62.90
April 2001	72.50	69.15	63.55
April 2002	75.50	70.35	64.40
April 2003	77.45	71.55	65.05
April 2004	79.60	73.55	65.95
April 2005	82.05	75.85	66.70
April 2006	84.25	77.90	68.35
April 2007	87.30	80.70	70.00
April 2008	90.70	83.85	71.25
April 2009	95.25	88.05	74.95
April 2010	97.65	88.05	75.75

Notes:

1. In the CPI scenario the basic state pension level has been increased by CPI inflation for September of the preceding year. Where it has been used RPI inflation is taken from the same period.

2. The official CPI index starts in 1996 but historical estimates back to 1988 have been calculated based on archived RPI data. These estimates can be considered a reasonable proxy to the official series. Further details are given in Economic Trends No. 541. Prior to the 10 December 2003, the CPI was published as the HICP.

Sources:

DWP analysis; The Abstract of Statistics for Benefits, National Insurance Contributions, and Indices of Prices and Earnings, 2009 edition; Office for National Statistics historical CPI data, July 2010

Pensions: Working Mothers

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the effect of maternity leave on the pension contributions of working mothers. [11581]

Steve Webb: None on this specific issue, but the Government have made clear their intention to commence the core provisions of the Equality Act 2010—including those requirements on occupational pensions and maternity leave—from October 2010.

The new provisions will not alter the current position that:

an employer contributing to an occupational pension must continue to make the usual payments during the period an employee gets statutory maternity pay or contractual maternity pay; and

an employee is required only to pay any contributions of her own on the amount of statutory maternity pay or contractual remuneration actually paid to, or for, her during that period.

Post Office Card Account: Rutherglen

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency and *(b)* South Lanarkshire who have Post Office card accounts. [11887]

Steve Webb: As at February 2010, the latest date for which information is available, the number of Post Office card accounts held in Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency was 12,150. The number held in South Lanarkshire was 27,250.

Poverty

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to estimate the minimum income required for healthy living. [1636]

Maria Miller: We recognise that the current legislation and ways of measuring poverty do not necessarily capture all aspects of poverty or inequality facing individuals and families. The Government are committed to tackling the causes of poverty and not just treating the symptoms.

We must tackle the root causes of how people get trapped in poverty, breaking the cycle of disadvantage and dependency culture to stimulate social mobility.

The right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) has been asked to lead an independent review of poverty and life chances including examining the case for reforms to poverty measures, in particular for the inclusion of non-financial elements. The review will explore whether there are measures that can improve the way poverty is tackled, ensuring we focus on the root causes and the paths into poverty as well as looking at the non-financial side.

Poverty: Children

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* absolute poverty, *(b)* relative poverty and *(c)* combined material deprivation and low income in East Lothian constituency. [11520]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty in Scotland are published in "Poverty and Income Inequality In Scotland: 2008-09". This uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in "Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland" do not allow analysis by parliamentary constituency. Figures for Scotland are set out in the following table.

Number of children in absolute, relative and combined material deprivation and low income in Scotland

Period 2008-09	*Number of children (thousand)*
Absolute poverty[1]	110
Relative poverty[2]	210
Combined material deprivation and low income[3]	160

[1] Absolute poverty refers to the number of children living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the Great Britain median income before housing costs in 1998-99.

[2] Relative poverty refers to the number of children living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of contemporary UK median income before housing costs.

[3] Combined material deprivation and low income refers to the number of children living in households with a material deprivation score of 25 or more and with equivalised incomes below 70% of contemporary UK median income before housing costs.

Notes:

1. The source of this information is the Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland: 2008-09 publication.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
5. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 children.

Source:

Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland: 2008-09

Income measures do not necessarily capture all aspects of poverty or inequality facing children and their families and the Government is committed to tackling the causes of poverty and not just treating the symptoms. We must tackle the root causes of how people get trapped in poverty, breaking the cycle of disadvantage and dependency culture to stimulate social mobility.

The right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) has been asked to lead an independent review of poverty and life chances including examining the case for reforms to poverty measures, in particular for the inclusion of non-financial elements. The review will explore whether there are measures that can improve the way poverty is tackled, ensuring we focus on the root causes and the paths into poverty as well as looking at the non-financial side.

Poverty: Lancashire

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to reduce levels of income inequality in Lancashire. [10546]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Analysis shown in the June Budget shows that the overall impact of modelled direct tax, indirect tax, and benefit and tax credit changes coming into effect by 2012-13 is progressive, with the rich paying more than the poorest. The Government have also set out in their spending review framework that they will

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions." (2.4, page 7).

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on disabled people of recent changes to the eligibility criteria for accessing the Independent Living Fund. [10023]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* The decision to restrict applications in accordance with priority groups outlined in the Trust Deed was made under the previous administration and no consultation was undertaken about the effect of this decision on disabled people. The ILF subsequently closed the fund to new applicants in June to safeguard the support given to the 21,000 existing recipients of the discretionary fund.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Bedfordshire and *(b)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency were in receipt of (i) disability living allowance, (ii) incapacity benefit and (iii) employment and support allowance on the most recent date for which figures are available. [11813]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance, November 2009

			Number
	ESA	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Mid Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency	350	1,590	2,770
Unitary authorities in Bedfordshire	950	9,460	13,680

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.
6. The figures for unitary authorities in Bedfordshire are the total of Bedford and Central Bedfordshire UA's and reflect the boundary changes from April 2009.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency are in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* disability living allowance and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [11899]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance, November 2009

Number

Parliamentary constituency	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*	*DLA*
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	6,360	1,100	8,940

Notes: 1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008. 2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied. 3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. 4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. 5. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'. *Source:* DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Social Security Benefits: Married People

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many spouses of designated persons have previously *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been refused state benefits. [10099]

Maria Miller: The information is not available. Benefit would only be refused where the relevant entitlement conditions are not met.

State Retirement Pensions

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to raise the basic state pension by the *(a)* change in (i) average earnings or (ii) each price index or *(b)* 2.5%, whichever is higher, in (A) 2012, (B) 2013 and (C) 2014. [11923]

Steve Webb: The coalition Government are providing a triple guarantee that the basic state pension will rise each year by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%.

For 2011, we will additionally ensure that the increase will not be lower than it would have been under the previous uprating arrangements.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its predecessors has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department and its predecessor for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11688]

Chris Grayling: Since 1997 the Department and its predecessors have paid no monies to trade unions.

The information requested on the value of facilities provided by the Department and its predecessor for use by trade unions in each year since 1997 is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11689]

Chris Grayling: This specific information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Under the Corporate Employee Relations Framework, which sets out the maximum amount of time we will allow trade union representatives to undertake their trade unions activity, the Department for Work and Pensions allows a total resource of 0.2% of the Department's overall whole time equivalent staffing headcount as at the 1 April each year. Out of a total of 21,134,300 staff days this was 42,460 days for the year commencing 1 June 2009 to 31 May 2010.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11690]

Chris Grayling: This information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Unemployment

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what forecast the Office for Budget Responsibility has made of those unemployed *(a)* for less than six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between 12 and 24 months and *(d)* over 24 months in each year from 2010. [4650]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

The official forecast produced by the Office for Budget Responsibility does not include a breakdown of ILO unemployment by duration of unemployment.

Unemployment Benefits: Greater London

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many problem drug user residents in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(c)* Enfield North constituency received each out of work benefit in each year since 2005; [11802]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(c)* Enfield North constituency who are unable to work as a result of (i) alcohol and (ii) drug dependency and who are in receipt of out of work benefits. [11803]

Chris Grayling: Drug and alcohol addiction is one of the most damaging root causes of poverty. Helping people who are trapped on benefits through drug and alcohol addiction so that they can recover and find employment is a top priority for the Government.

Drug or alcohol dependency does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. This assesses the effects of a person's condition on their ability to carry out a number of everyday activities relevant to work. People with a recorded diagnosis of alcohol or drug dependency may have other diagnoses, for example mental illness, which result in their incapacity for work. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation:

http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/

A breakdown by medical condition is only available for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance. Details of medical condition are not available for the other out-of-work benefits. The available information is in the tables.

The number of working age claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance whose main disabling condition is recorded as drug abuse 2005-09

	London government office region	*Enfield local authority*	*Enfield North parliamentary constituency*
November 2005	6,670	130	60
November 2006	6,680	140	60
November 2007	6,930	130	50
November 2008	6,750	150	50
November 2009	5,800	130	50

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance from October 2008. This will account for some of the change in numbers of incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants between November 2008 and November 2009 whose main disabling condition was recorded as drug abuse.
3. Benefit data reflect the pre-2005 parliamentary constituency boundaries as the provision of a time series based on the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundary changes would incur disproportionate cost.
4. Future published benefit data will reflect the 2010 parliamentary constituencies from May 2010. These data will be published from November 2010 onwards.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

The number of working age claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance whose main disabling condition is recorded as drug abuse or alcoholism—November 2009

	Alcoholism	*Drug Abuse*
Enfield local authority	80	130
Enfield North parliamentary constituency	30	40

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance from October 2008.
3. Enfield parliamentary constituency figures take account of the boundary changes from May 2010. The most up to date available data are for November 2009, and the figures have been processed to reflect the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundary changes.
4. Future published benefit data will reflect the 2010 parliamentary constituencies from May 2010. These data will be published from November 2010 onwards.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Estimated number of working age claimants who are problem drug users by benefit type in England in 2006

	Number
Jobseeker's allowance	66,000
Incapacity benefit	87,000
Income support	146,000
Disability living allowance	25,000
Total in receipt of one or more of the above benefits	267,000

Notes:

1. The figures are derived from estimates of the number of recipients of each main benefit who are problem drug users. Those individuals who receive disability-related benefits and declare their drug use are a sub-set of this larger group.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. The sum of the component benefits is greater than the total because claimants can be in receipt of one or more benefits at the same time.
4. Problem drug users are defined as those who use opiates (e.g. heroin) and/or crack cocaine and include those who are in treatment for their dependency.
5. Disability living allowance can be claimed by people who are both in and out of work.
6. The copy of the working paper by Hay and Bauld can be found in the House of Commons Library, and can also be accessed at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP46.pdf

Source:

Population estimates of problematic drug users in England who access Department for Work and Pensions benefits: A feasibility study, Working Paper No. 46, Hay, G. and Bauld, L. 2008

Unemployment Benefits: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many problem drug users resident in *(a)* the East of England, *(b)* Peterborough city council area and *(c)* Peterborough constituency received each out of work benefit in each year since 2005; [11192]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the Peterborough city council area who are unable to work and in receipt of out of work benefits as a result of (i) alcohol and (ii) drug dependency; and if he will make a statement. [11292]

Chris Grayling: Drug and alcohol addiction is one of the most damaging root causes of poverty. Helping people who are trapped on benefits through drug and alcohol addiction so that they can recover and find employment is a top priority for the Government.

Drug or alcohol dependency does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. This assesses the effects of a person's condition on their ability to carry out a number of everyday activities relevant to work. People with a recorded diagnosis of alcohol or drug dependency may have other diagnoses, for example mental illness, which result in their incapacity for work. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation

http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/

A breakdown by medical condition is only available for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance. Details of medical condition are not available for the other out-of-work benefits. The available information is in the tables.

The number of working age claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance whose main disabling condition is recorded as drug abuse, 2005 to 2009.

November	*East of England*	*Peterborough local authority*	*Peterborough parliamentary constituency*
2005	2,550	130	90
2006	2,600	130	90
2007	2,780	150	100
2008	2,840	170	110
2009	2,340	150	90

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance from October 2008. This will account for some of the change in numbers of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants between November 2008 and November 2009 whose main disabling condition was recorded as drug abuse.
3. Benefit data reflect the pre-2005 parliamentary constituency boundaries as the provision of a time series based on the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundary changes would incur disproportionate cost.
4. Future published benefit data will reflect the 2010 parliamentary constituencies from May 2010. These data will be published from November 2010 onwards.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

The number of working age claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance whose main disabling condition is recorded as drug abuse or alcoholism, November 2009.

	Alcoholism	*Drug abuse*
Peterborough local authority	90	150
Peterborough parliamentary constituency	70	100

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance from October 2008.
3. Peterborough parliamentary constituency figures take account of the boundary changes from May 2010. The most up to date available data are for November 2009, and the figures have been processed to reflect the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundary changes.
4. Future published benefit data will reflect the 2010 parliamentary constituencies from May 2010. These data will be published from November 2010 onwards.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Estimated number of working age claimants who are problem drug users by benefit type in England in 2006.

Benefit	*Estimated number*
Jobseeker's Allowance	66,000
Incapacity Benefit	87,000
Income Support	146,000
Disability Living Allowance	25,000
Total in receipt of one or more of the above benefits	267,000

Notes:

1. The figures are estimates of the number of recipients of each main benefit who are problem drug users. Those individuals who receive disability-related benefits and declare their drug use are a sub-set of this larger group.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. The sum of the component benefits is greater than the total because claimants can be in receipt of one or more benefits at the same time.
4. Problem drug users are defined as those who use opiates (e.g. heroin) and/or crack cocaine and include those who are in treatment for their dependency.
5. Disability living allowance can be claimed by people who are both in and out of work.
6. The copy of the working paper by Hay and Bauld can be found in the House of Commons Library, and can also be accessed at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP46.pdf

Source:

Population estimates of problematic drug users in England who access Department for Work and Pensions benefits: A feasibility study, Working Paper No. 46, Hay, G. & Bauld, L. 2008.

Unemployment: Holborn

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Holborn and St Pancras constituency have been unemployed for more than a year. [11935]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Holborn and St Pancras constituency have been unemployed for more than a year. (11935)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). However, due to the small sample size, no reasonable estimate is available for Holborn and St Pancras constituency.

As an alternative we can provide the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for more than 52 weeks. In June 2010 the number of these in the Holborn and St Pancras constituency was 670.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Vulnerable Adults: Home Visits

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to maintain the number of home visits to vulnerable clients undertaken by Pension, Disability and Carers Service local service at its current level. [11848]

Steve Webb: Following a strategic review, the future visiting service will be more directly targeted only on vulnerable customers with particular needs which cannot be met in more cost effective ways. The service will also be expanded to support all of the Department's vulnerable customers. While this strategy is expected to widen the customer base and align the service offering across the Department, more effective targeting and movement of some of the current customer base to lower cost channels is expected to reduce the number of future customers needing a face to face service and subsequently the number of visits.

Work Capability Assessment

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which private companies carry out the work capability assessment on behalf of his Department; and how much has been paid to each for this work to date. [11992]

Chris Grayling: Following open, competitive tender, the Department for Work and Pensions re-awarded Atos Origin IT Services Ltd, trading as Atos Healthcare, a new contract to perform medical services on behalf of the Department from 1 September 2005. The total cost of these services amounts to approximately £100 million per annum. This figure covers not only the total number of examinations undertaken across all benefits, but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Cynon Valley constituency who underwent the work capability assessment in the last 12 months was judged fit for work; how many appeals against such determinations were initiated; and how many such appeals were successful. [11993]

Chris Grayling: Between June 2009 and May 2010, 66% of people who completed the work capability assessment in the UK were found fit for work. The equivalent figure for Wales is 63%. This information is not available for the Cynon Valley constituency.

Appeals data are not available for the period June 2009 and May 2010. For new ESA claims received in the UK between October 2008 and June 2009, where the claimant was found fit for work, has appealed the Department's decision and has had an appeal heard by May 2010, 40% of these appeals found in favour of the appellant. The equivalent figure for Wales is 36%. This information is not available for the Cynon Valley constituency.

Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Cynon Valley constituency have undergone the work capability assessment as part of a claim for employment and support allowance to date. [11994]

Chris Grayling: In the UK, there have been 496,200 completed work capability assessments from October 2008 up to the end of May 2010. The equivalent figure for Wales is 29,100. This information is not available for the Cynon Valley constituency.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 13W, on the Work Programme, who the members are of the review of the work capability assessment. [11999]

Chris Grayling: The internal review of the work capability assessment led by the Department was published on 29 March 2010. The review engaged with medical and other experts and disability representative groups and found that generally the assessment accurately identifies individuals for benefit. Those consulted as part of the review included representatives from:

Citizens Advice;
The Disability Benefits Consortium;
The Disability Employment Advisory Council;
Mencap;
MIND;
The National Autistic Society;
The Parkinson's Disease Society;
The Royal College of Psychiatrists;
RNIB;
RNID;
RSI Action;
Atos Origin Medical Services;
The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development;
The Social Security Advisory Committee; and
Senior health care professionals from the fields of psychiatry, neurological disability/rehabilitation; occupational and psychological medicine.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 10W, on disabled people (work), if he will publish the results of the review of the work capability assessment led by his Department. [12000]

Chris Grayling: The internal review of the work capability assessment led by the Department was published on 29 March. A copy of the report and the associated addendum, which was published at the same time, have been placed in the Library.

HEALTH

Abortion: Death

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many women are known to have died within one month of operations for termination of pregnancy notified under the Abortion Regulations 1991, as amended, in each year since 1980; and what cause of death was recorded on the death certificate in each case; [10504]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the number of women who died following complications from a legal abortion; when his

Department last undertook an evidence review of the number of women who died following complications from a legal abortion that drew on (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if he will make a statement. [10505]

Anne Milton: Data on deaths from abortion from 1979 to 2005 can be found in the following table. The maternal death data are currently published in a triennial cycle and 2006-08 data will be published in March next year.

All of the maternal deaths following a legal abortion reported to the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries have undergone a full review.

Causes of death for maternal deaths from legal and illegal abortions 1979 to 2005 (all causes taken from report vignettes unless otherwise stated)

	Number	Cause of death
Legal abortions		
1979-81	5	Pulmonary embolism (4)[1] Sepsis (1)[1]
1982-84	7	–
1985-87	1	Air embolism (1)
1988-90	3	Haemorrhage (1) Septic shock (1) Severe bronchospasm (1)
1991-93	5	Endotoxic shock (1)[1] Laparotomy, perforation of the uterus (1) Adult respiratory distress syndrome, DIC, infection with bacteriodes melaminogenicus (1) Laparotomy, perforation of the uterus, haematoma (1) Clostridium Welchi infection (1)
1994-96	1	Holes in the jejunum, faecal peritonitis (1)
1997-99	2	Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (1) DIC, multiple organ failure (1)
2000-02	3	Cause of death unclear
2003-05	1	Severe anaemia from haemorrhage from retained products (1)
Illegal abortions		
1979-81	1	Sepsis (1)
1982-84	0	—
1985-87	0	—
1988-90	0	—
1991-93	0	—
1994-96	0	—
1997-99	0	—
2000-02	0	—
2003-05	1	Unclear, unusual trauma in genital tract, unusual organism found.

[1] Taken from report as final cause of death

Source:

The data are from the maternal death enquiry run by CMACE (Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries) specifically from the Why Mothers Die triennial report (prior to 2003) and Saving Mothers Lives triennial report (2003-2005).

We have confirmed with the National Institute for Health Research that there is no specific funded research or evidence review in this area. However, the Department has commissioned the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to review and update their 2004 guidance 'The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion'. The aim of the guidance is to ensure that all women considering induced abortion have access to a service of uniformly high quality.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with NHS London on future hospital and accident and emergency provision in London. [11843]

Mr Simon Burns: There has been no discussions with NHS London on future hospital and accident and emergency provision in London. In future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down.

The Government have outlined new, strengthened criteria that they expect decisions on national health service service changes to meet. The local NHS are considering the impact of these criteria in their area and local communities are establishing how this work will be taken forward.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Patients

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients attended each accident and emergency department in London *(a)* in each of the last three years and *(b)* in 2010 on the latest date for which figures are available. [11840]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected in the format requested.

The following table sets out the number of first attendances at accident and emergency departments, minor injury units and walk in centres in London national health service organisations from April 2007 to March 2010. The data are collected by provider trust rather than by department and are the latest published data available.

First attendances at accident and emergency (A&E) departments, minor injury units and walk in centres; London NHS organisations April 2007 to March 2010

Organisation name	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total	3,697,022	3,780,506	3,980,549
Havering Primary Care Trust	36,048	37,176	42,687
Barnet Primary Care Trust	72,230	78,570	89,886
Hillingdon Primary Care Trust	—	30,512	30,517
Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust	38,608	54,622	56,726
City and Hackney Teaching Primary Care Trust	9,124	10,415	16,010
Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust	44,697	43,108	45,523
Newham Primary Care Trust	50,461	39,637	47,835
Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust	31,349	36,640	35,349
Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Care Trust	19,595	14,058	20,751
Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust	13,903	14,620	14,577
Westminster Primary Care Trust	27,455	27,556	29,386
Wandsworth Primary Care Trust	13,649	45,241	77,652
Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust	47,362	46,786	46,675
Redbridge Primary Care Trust	5,092	33,688	36,875
Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust	48,332	45,147	54,169
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	74,002	77,308	85,746
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	108,822	107,902	110,431
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	123,086	96,030	100,224
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	97,439	100,540	104,405
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	100,967	98,324	98,812
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	194,654	177,625	181,890
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	91,474	90,291	94,928
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	99,534	98,224	—
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	84,202	84,162	—
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	86,281	92,947	98,484
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	74,060	80,273	—
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	147,257	144,627	154,214
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	140,556	126,564	125,471
St Mary's Hospital NHS Trust	56,796	—	—
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	151,498	151,768	154,389
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	156,808	133,430	111,087
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	111,880	135,476	143,474
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	89,231	86,991	92,792
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	83,042	88,496	66,924
Barts and The London NHS Trust	117,109	119,453	124,879
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	58,671	64,487	69,383
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	97,688	97,574	100,746
The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	49,081	—	—
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	108,857	108,868	111,957
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	94,962	93,558	100,715
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	197,273	207,819	244,445
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	145,965	150,072	149,780
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	128,108	129,786	135,998
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	102,581	208,057	227,639
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	—	—	274,634

First attendances at accident and emergency (A&E) departments, minor injury units and walk in centres, London NHS organisations April 2007 to March 2010

Organisation name	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
IS Walk-in Centres with a Commuter Focus	67,233	72,078	72,484

Notes:

1. Information is not collected on the number of patients treated at A&E departments. However, data on the number of attendances at A&E departments are available and published quarterly via the Department of Health's Quarterly Monitoring Accident and Emergency Services (QMAE) dataset. This includes patients who attended A&E but who were not subsequently treated and counts each attendance by the same patient separately.

2. Certain organisations merged during the submission periods of QMAE. These include:

Closed in September 2007 (merge):
St Mary's Hospital NHS Trust
The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust
Opened October 2007:
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
Closed in March 2009 (merge):
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust
Opened April 2009:
South London Healthcare NHS Trust

3. Primary care trusts manage services at Type 3 A&E Units (minor injury units, and walk-in centres) and also commission these services from the independent sector.

Source:
Department of Health's Quarterly Monitoring Accident and Emergency Services (QMAE) dataset

Alcoholic Drinks: Labelling

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for compulsory labelling of alcoholic drinks with *(a)* information on the number of units the drink contains, *(b)* daily safe drinking limits, *(c)* a message about responsible drinking, *(d)* a health warning for pregnant women and *(e)* the website address for the Drinkaware Trust. [11645]

Anne Milton: A public consultation on options for improving health information on the labels of alcoholic drinks closed on 31 May. The responses to this exercise are now being analysed and it would be inappropriate for us to pre-empt the findings. We will set out our plans for next steps, in the coming months.

Asbestos: Diseases

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will *(a)* support and *(b)* provide funding for the establishment of a national centre for asbestos-related diseases; [11186]

(2) how much he plans to spend on research into asbestos-related diseases in the next three years; [11187]

(3) what his policy is on increasing expenditure on research into asbestos-related diseases. [11188]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has asked the National Cancer Research Institute to carry out a review of research in mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. The outcome of the review will inform the future strategies and work of the Institute's partner funders, and help develop the potential to build research capacity and increase research investment in asbestos-related diseases. The review is due to report in the autumn.

The National Institute for Health Research and the Medical Research Council both welcome applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals submitted. Future levels of expenditure on research in asbestos-related diseases will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

Care Quality Commission: Fees

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to assess the merits of *(a)* a discount and *(b)* an exemption scheme for non-profit organisations and charities as part of his Department's consultation on the registration fees charge by the Care Quality Commission. [10496]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission is responsible for setting the level of registration fees payable by different providers.

The Commission intends to consult on its proposals for registration fees that will apply from April 2011 in the autumn. Final proposals for registration fees will be subject to the consent of the Secretary of State for Health.

CJD

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what compensation his Department has paid to *(a)* individuals affected by variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and *(b)* their families in each year since 1996. [10943]

Anne Milton: Compensation for patients suffering from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), and their families, has been available since 2001. In total, £67.5 million has been made available to cover the needs of the first 250 patients and their families. This sum has been paid into the vCJD Trust, which disburses funds in line with the terms of its Trust Deed.

As at 11 June 2010, the Trust had paid £38,705,147.16 in compensation in relation to a total of 175 vCJD patients. A breakdown between patients and their families is not readily available. The totals of payments made in each year are as follows:

Period	*Total compensation (£)*
10 April 2001 - 14 March 2002	13,098,333.33
15 March 2002 - 5 April 2003	7,334,176.66
Year ending 5 April 2004	6,145,738.07
Year ending 5 April 2005	3,090,429.47
Year ending 5 April 2006	3,621,644.14
Year ending 5 April 2007	3,360,026.63
Year ending 5 April 2008	870,734.25
Year ending 5 April 2009	724,841.69
Year ending 5 April 2010	429,224.92

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided for research into variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in each year since 1996. [10944]

Anne Milton: Expenditure by the Department on research into variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is shown in the table.

	£ million
1996-97	0.3
1997-98	1.1
1998-99	2.1
1999-2000	4.7
2000-01	4.0
2001-02	4.0
2002-03	6.1
2003-04	7.2
2004-05	6.0
2005-06	4.3
2006-07	3.9
2007-08	5.7
2008-09	5.1
2009-10	4.8

Cystic Fibrosis: Prescriptions

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for an exemption from payment of prescription charges for cystic fibrosis patients. [11543]

Mr Simon Burns: Decisions on any future changes to the system of prescription charges and exemptions in England would need to be taken in the context of the next spending review, which is due to report in the autumn. In the meantime, there are no plans to make any changes to the current list of conditions which are exempt from prescription charges.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11387]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department of Health does not differentiate between small and medium sized enterprises and other creditors. It is the intention of the Department to pay all suppliers as soon as is practicable after receipt of a valid invoice, regardless of their size.

The percentage of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice and on the agreed payment terms in the last three months are shown in the following table.

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days	*Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days*[1]
April 2010	94.14	99.55
May 2010	95.66	98.68
June 2010	96.61	99.07

[1] The Department has a standard payment term that states that payment shall be due 30 days after receipt of the goods or the correct invoice, whichever is the later.

Departmental Internet

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on search engine biasing with (i) Google and (ii) other search engines in each of the last five years. [10015]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has a corporate website:

www.dh.gov.uk

and also manages NHS Choices:

www.nhs.uk

the official health information portal for the public.

The Department's corporate website does not invest in any paid search activity. In line with Government policy, NHS Choices no longer has any arrangement, or pays for any search engine activity.

No commitments have been made with Google or any other search provider for 'pay per click' online marketing since the moratorium on marketing spend was put in place on 24 May 2010.

NHS Choices used paid search activity to ensure that it reaches the widest possible audience, and that users can easily find clinically assured health information and access the services they need from Government.

Paid search activity was a key component of several major campaigns for the Department in 2009-10, including our anti-smoking and pandemic flu campaigns, to reach as large an audience as possible.

The Department spent £2.93 million and £1.48 million on paid search activity in 2009-10 and 2008-09 respectively. A breakdown of this spend by search engine is not readily available and can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. Likewise, data for the three years preceding 2008-09 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has not spent any money with Google or other search engines.

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal background note prepared for the response to each

Parliamentary question tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West and answered by his Department since 5 June 2010. [4274]

Anne Milton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal background note prepared for the response to each parliamentary question tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West and answered by his Department in *(a)* June and *(b)* July 2009. [4305]

Anne Milton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8231]

Mr Simon Burns: Based on invoices the Department has received, the estimated expenditure is in the region of the figures in the following table.

£

Minister	*May 2010*	*June 2010*
Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley)	4,246.22	9,684.85
Minister of State for Health (Mr Simon Burns)	3,058.65	8,644.52
Minister of State for Care Services (Mr Paul Burstow)	2,796.17	5,996.93
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Anne Milton)	5,190.77	8,280.83
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe)	3,624.02	7,195.98

The existing Government Care Service contracts, which were subject to a 90-day contract termination period, end on 19 August 2010. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Doctors: Working Hours

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the application of the EU Working Time Directive to the working hours of surgeons and trainee surgeons; and if he will make a statement. [10881]

Mr Simon Burns: The coalition Government are committed to 'limit the application of the working time directive in the United Kingdom'. Ministers at the Department have discussed the impact of the application of the working time directive on the working hours of surgeons and trainee surgeons specifically or in relation to other matters on a number of occasions.

Meetings:

18 May 2010: Telephone conversation between the Secretary of State and John Black (President of the Royal College of Surgeons)

7 June 2010: Presentation of Sir John Temple's report "Time for Training" to the Secretary of State (Medical Education England Chair and Managing Director Sir Christopher Edwards and Chris Outram attending)

9 June 2010: Meeting between the Secretary of State and John Black

13 July 2010: Meeting between Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lords) and John Black (Dr P. Hamilton, Department of Health, Director Medical Education attending).

Correspondence:

21 May 2010, 27 May 2010 and 15 June 2010: John Black to Secretary of State

26 May 2010: Secretary of State to John Black.

Epilepsy: Nurses

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department (1) has on the number of epilepsy specialist nurses transferred partially or in full to general nursing duties in the latest period for which figures are available; [11378]

(2) holds on the ratio of children with epilepsy to paediatric epilepsy specialist nurses. [11391]

Mr Burstow: We have no information on the number of specialist epilepsy nurses that have been transferred to general nursing duties.

Information on the ratio of children with epilepsy to the number of paediatric specialist epilepsy nurses is not collected centrally.

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership, which receives its funding from the Department, has commissioned a national clinical audit of childhood epilepsy to support local health services to evaluate clinical practice and to stimulate service improvement. One of the measures the audit will use will be the percentage of children with epilepsy with evidence of input by an epilepsy specialist nurse within one year. Data collection is due to start in the autumn of 2010 at early adopter sites, with a national roll out to follow soon after. The audit is being coordinated by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Foetal Tissue

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foetuses have been used for the purposes of research in the last five years; which clinics have supplied foetal remains for research in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [10407]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally. The law governing the use of foetal tissue for research purposes is the Human Tissue Act 2004. It does not distinguish between foetal tissue and other tissue from the living. Foetal tissue is regarded as the mother's tissue.

The Human Tissue Act 2004 requires that the storage of human tissue for research, and other "scheduled purposes" is licensed. The regulator responsible for licensing is the Human Tissue Authority (HTA). It has published a series of codes of practice on key activities involving human tissue, including consent (Code of Practice 1) and research (Code of Practice 9). The HTA has no role in approving individual research projects, and information on the number of foetuses used in research is not collected centrally.

Food Standards Agency

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he gave to the final recommendations of the Calman Commission on Scottish Devolution in deciding to change the function of the Food Standards Agency. [11949]

Anne Milton: Officials were made aware of the report by the Commission on Scottish Devolution "Serving Scotland Better: Scotland and the United Kingdom in the 21st Century", published in June 2009, during discussions about the transfer of nutrition policy from the Food Standards Agency to the Department.

Food Standards Agency: Public Consultation

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what projects on public attitudes to organic agriculture the Food Standards Agency has funded since 1997; what the *(a)* topic, *(b)* start date, *(c)* cost and *(d)* project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed. [10867]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

I am advised that the Food Standards Agency has not specifically funded any projects on public attitudes to organic agriculture. However, organic food has been addressed in a number of consumer surveys conducted by the agency, but it should be noted that they were only addressed to a small extent as the surveys cover a wide range of food related issues. These surveys are available on the agency's website at

www.food.gov.uk

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what projects on organic agriculture the Food Standards Agency has funded since 1997; what the *(a)* topic, *(b)* start date, *(c)* cost and *(d)* project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed. [10868]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

I am advised that the Food Standards Agency has funded three projects on organic agriculture since its inception in 2000 and all have been completed. Details of these projects are listed in the following table.

Topic	*Start date*	*Cost (£)*	*Project code*	*Main contractor*
Systematic review of differences in nutrient content of organically and conventionally produced food	February 2008	117,870	L01X01	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Verifying the authenticity of organically grown crops using stable nitrogen isotope analysis	April 2002	203,818	Q01076	University of East Anglia
Verification of organic meat production by detection of permitted and not-permitted uses of veterinary medicines	June 2001	218,299	Q01047	Central Science Laboratory (now Food and Environment Research Agency)

Reports for all projects are published on the agency's open access repository, Foodbase, at

http://www.foodbase.org.uk/index.php

General Practitioners

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to issue guidance on the role of GPs in managing proposed health consortia. [10936]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" (CM 7881) published on 12 July 2010, set out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices.

"Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients" published on 22 July provides further information on the intended arrangements for GP commissioning, providing the basis for fuller engagement with primary care professionals and the public.

Copies of both publications are available in the Library.

General Practitioners: Registration

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients are registered with GPs in each NHS district; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of eligible residents of each such district who are not registered with an NHS GP. [11841]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department collects information regarding how many patients are registered with general practitioners by primary care trust (PCT) in England. This information for March 2010 is shown in the following table. The Department does not collect information on those who choose not to be registered.

Registered patients by PCT in England March 2010

	Number
County Durham	532,645
Darlington	105,817
Gateshead	204,527
Hartlepool	94,197
Middlesbrough	152,429
Newcastle	281,048
North Tees	191,013
North Tyneside	214,749
Northumberland	321,180
Redcar and Cleveland	134,372
South Tyneside	154,930
Sunderland Teaching	284,518
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	318,886
Blackburn with Darwen	166,949
Blackpool	152,293
Bolton	291,201
Bury	184,268
Central and Eastern Cheshire	468,656
Central Lancashire	469,653

Registered patients by PCT in England March 2010

	Number
Cumbria	518,673
East Lancashire	388,172
Halton and St Helens	319,286
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	222,104
Knowsley	158,661
Liverpool	484,836
Manchester	545,418
North Lancashire	339,531
Oldham	237,638
Salford	242,878
Sefton	280,889
Stockport	297,632
Tameside and Glossop	238,566
Trafford	231,789
Warrington	205,834
Western Cheshire	259,043
Wirral	331,983
Barnsley	243,929
Bradford and Airedale	545,642
Calderdale	210,248
Doncaster	308,774
East Riding of Yorkshire	314,792
Hull	288,826
Kirklees	418,972
Leeds	811,698
North East Lincolnshire	169,532
North Lincolnshire	167,011
North Yorkshire and York	798,506
Rotherham	255,699
Sheffield	565,539
Wakefield District	350,926
Bassetlaw	110,880
Derby City	294,309
Derbyshire County	713,156
Leicester City	380,224
Leicestershire County and Rutland	675,527
Lincolnshire	744,097
Northamptonshire	701,137
Nottingham City	337,773
Nottinghamshire County	667,221
Birmingham East and North	444,861
Coventry Teaching	339,256
Dudley	314,552
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	319,279
Herefordshire	180,680
North Staffordshire	210,652
Sandwell	338,834
Shropshire County	296,332
Solihull	222,034
South Birmingham	390,080
South Staffordshire	616,949
Stoke on Trent	270,616
Telford and Wrekin	170,479
Walsall Teaching	269,389
Warwickshire	547,997
Wolverhampton City	261,350
Worcestershire	574,537
Bedfordshire	430,095
Cambridgeshire	619,928
East and North Hertfordshire	583,199
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	230,178
Luton	208,706
Mid Essex	377,278
Norfolk	739,012
North East Essex	324,799
Peterborough	177,447
South East Essex	362,585
South West Essex	421,484
Suffolk	614,410
West Essex	285,566
West Hertfordshire	587,589
Barking and Dagenham	186,794
Barnet	366,439
Bexley	228,182
Brent Teaching	354,814
Bromley	324,061
Camden	249,972
City and Hackney Teaching	275,481
Croydon	378,486
Ealing	375,118
Enfield	287,528
Greenwich Teaching	266,444
Hammersmith and Fulham	189,039
Haringey Teaching	281,265
Harrow	235,569
Havering	254,029
Hillingdon	273,372
Hounslow	259,021
Islington	213,221
Kensington and Chelsea	189,074
Kingston	190,176
Lambeth	375,649
Lewisham	301,136
Newham	341,627
Redbridge	270,290
Richmond and Twickenham	198,900
Southwark	316,493
Sutton and Merton	391,773
Tower Hamlets	255,720
Waltham Forest	277,164
Wandsworth	366,059
Westminster	249,314
Brighton and Hove City	300,806
East Sussex Downs and Weald	347,468
Eastern and Coastal Kent	768,170
Hastings and Rother	182,732
Medway	281,880
Surrey	1,160,764
West Kent	704,108
West Sussex	822,077
Berkshire East	421,281
Berkshire West	499,321
Buckinghamshire	529,013
Hampshire	1,315,141
Isle of Wight National Health Service	140,879
Milton Keynes	256,514
Oxfordshire	675,828
Portsmouth City Teaching	212,219
Southampton City	262,887
Bath and North East Somerset	195,344

Registered patients by PCT in England March 2010

	Number
Bournemouth and Poole	364,164
Bristol	463,374
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	548,541
Devon	762,737
Dorset	399,886
Gloucestershire	610,327
North Somerset	208,318
Plymouth Teaching	274,056
Somerset	536,645
South Gloucestershire	256,017
Swindon	215,692
Torbay	145,832
Wiltshire	458,913
Total England	54,894,497

Health Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the potential role of *(a)* secondary care professionals and *(b)* nurses in commissioning health services. [10958]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published on 12 July 2010 set out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices.

"Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients" published on 22 July provides further information on the intended arrangements for GP commissioning. Given their key role in co-ordinating care, GPs are well placed to lead on commissioning care for patients. However, we expect consortia to involve relevant health and social care professionals from all sectors, including secondary care professionals and nurses, in helping them design care pathways or care packages that achieve more integrated delivery of care.

We will work with the national health service and professional bodies in the transition to the new arrangements for GP commissioning to promote multi-professional involvement.

Kidney Patients

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many kidney transplants there have been in each of the last five years; and how many such transplants were classified as successful. [11012]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of kidney transplants from living and deceased donors carried out in the United Kingdom from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2010; and the percentage of patients where the graft had not failed at three months and 12 months.

	Number of kidney only transplants			*Percentage of Grafts surviving*[1]			
				Deceased donor		*Live donor*	
	Deceased donor	*Live donor*	*Total*	*3 months*	*12 months*	*3 months*	*12 months*
2005-06	1,204	589	1,793	95	93	97	96
2006-07	1,257	690	1,947	95	93	97	97
2007-08	1,249	831	2,080	95	93	97	96
2008-09	1,403	927	2,330	95	93	98	96
2009-10	1,482	1,037	2,519	95	[2]—	98	[2]—

[1] Where up-to-date follow-up data are available.

[2] 12-month graft survival data are not available for 2009-10, as a full 12 months has not yet elapsed.

Kidneys: Transplant Surgery

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients requiring a kidney transplant *(a)* received a kidney transplant and *(b)* died while awaiting a transplant in each of the last three years. [11859]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of kidney transplants from living and deceased donors carried out in the United Kingdom from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010; and the number of patients that died whilst on the active[1] waiting list for a kidney transplant.

[1] Active means that when an organ becomes available, the patient is included among those who are matched against the donor to determine whether the organ is suitable. Patients can be temporarily removed (suspended) from the waiting list for reasons ranging from being away on holiday to being too ill to undergo the operation.

	Number of kidney only transplants			*Deaths - organ waiting list (kidney)*
	Deceased Donor	*Live Donor*	*Total*	
2007-08	1,249	831	2,080	308
2008-09	1,403	927	2,330	255
2009-10	1,482	1,037	2,519	286

Long Term Care

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to conduct the mid-term review of the National Service Framework for long-term neurological conditions. [11392]

Mr Burstow: We are currently considering the options for the National Service Framework for long-term neurological conditions, and will report back in due course.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely level of future demand for mental health services in London; and how much funding he plans to allocate for that purpose in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* the next three years. [11842]

Mr Burstow: We will be assessing our priorities carefully and will announce details on mental health policy in due course. Our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive to patients' choice and management of their own care, and delivering best health outcomes.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the capacity of mental health in-reach teams to meet the needs of prisoners with mental health needs serving imprisonment for public protection sentences. [10593]

Mr Burstow: The mental health needs of prisoners are met by a combination of primary care staff and mental health in-reach teams. No assessment of the capacity of mental health in-reach teams working with prisoners serving imprisonment for public protection sentences has been made.

Mental Health: Children

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of local authorities to the delivery of child and adult mental health services provided jointly with the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [11516]

Mr Burstow: We will be announcing details on mental health policy in due course. The reforms set out in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" will improve the national health service for patients of all ages, including children and young people. Our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive to patients' choice and delivering best health outcomes. "Liberating the NHS: Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health" also sets out proposals to improve integration and partnership working across health and social care for children and adults. We do not plan to undertake such assessments.

Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

Mental Illness: Prisoners

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the incidence of mental health illnesses in the prison population in England and Wales. [10325]

Mr Burstow: Based on the 1997 Office for National Statistics psychiatric morbidity survey and Ministry of Justice research published in 2008, our estimate is that around 90% of sentenced prisoners have some form of mental health problem. The 1997 survey showed that 7% of sentenced male prisoners and 14% of female prisoners had functional psychosis.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will review membership of the partners council of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; [11214]

(2) what criteria apply in respect of appointment to the partners council of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [11215]

Mr Simon Burns: We will keep the operation of the partners council under review, taking account of advice from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the views of council members.

The membership of the council is designed to reflect the range of external partners who work with the Institute in the development of its guidance. It is therefore drawn from patient advocacy groups, health professional groups, the health care industries and other third sector organisations which have an interest in NICE'S work.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence: Consultants

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for a mechanism for the peer review of responses by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to consultee comments. [11553]

Mr Simon Burns: Details of the processes for the development of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance are a matter for the Institute as an independent body, and NICE consults periodically on these processes. NICE most recently updated its process guides for clinical guidelines in 2008 and for technology appraisals and interventional procedures in 2009. Information on the way NICE develops its guidance is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/how_we_work.jsp

NHS

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation he undertook with patients' representatives prior to the publication of the Health White Paper. [10451]

Mr Simon Burns: The public voted for change; the manifestos of both parties of the coalition contained clear plans for the national health service. By publishing a strategy in the White Paper, and providing clear leadership and purpose for the NHS, the Government are now able to engage fully with all external partners on the detail of how best to implement these changes. A number of supporting consultation documents have been published providing further detail and opportunities for engagement.

NHS White Paper: Personnel

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to consult NHS employees in Coventry on the proposals in the NHS White Paper. [11943]

Mr Simon Burns: 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' set out the Government's strategy for the national health service. A copy has already been placed in the Library. By providing clear leadership and purpose for the NHS the Government are now able to engage fully on the detail of how best to implement these changes. A number of supporting consultation documents have been published providing further detail and opportunity for engagement, entitled: 'Liberating the NHS: Transparency in outcomes: a framework for the NHS', 'Liberating the NHS: Increasing democratic legitimacy in health', 'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients' and 'Liberating the NHS: Regulating healthcare providers'. A review of arms length bodies entitled 'Liberating the NHS: Report of the arms-length bodies review' has also been published. Copies of these documents have already been placed in the Library. They are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingtheNHS

NHS: Chaplains

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether NHS organisations consult any advisory body on the appointment of NHS chaplains; [11239]

(2) which Minister in his Department has responsibility for policy on NHS chaplains; [11240]

(3) how many chaplains of each faith each NHS acute hospital trust employs; and how many such chaplains each trust employs on a full-time basis. [11241]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number or working patterns of chaplains employed by national health service trusts is not collected centrally. It is for individual trusts to determine their own provision and they are not under a statutory obligation to consult with any advisory body on the appointment of healthcare chaplains. However, many will refer to the occupational standards and codes of conduct published by organisations and professional associations such as the Hospital Chaplaincies Council, the UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy and Multi Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy. I have responsibility for healthcare chaplaincy along with other issues relating to the NHS workforce.

NHS: Essex

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* managers and *(b)* administrative staff each NHS trust in Essex employed in each year since 1997; and what proportion of the total staff of each trust each figure represents. [10155]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested.

The following tables show national health service staff in East of England strategic health authority area in each specified organisation and each specified staff group as at 30 September each year since 1997.

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in the East of England strategic health authority area in each specified organisation and each specified staff group, as at 30 September each year

							Headcount and percentage headcount
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
East of England strategic health authority area							
All staff[1]	83,415	84,097	86,365	88,961	95,111	98,978	103,247
Administrative staff as a percentage of all staff (%)	19	19	19	19	20	20	21
All administrative staff	15,877	15,989	16,339	17,239	18,731	19,847	21,486
Senior managers[A]	713	697	794	821	1,094	1,295	1,173
Managers[A]	1,314	1,323	1,363	1,390	1,375	1,597	1,899
Administrative staff (central functions)[B]	5,343	5,164	5,635	6,081	6,203	6,380	7,116
Administrative staff (hotel, property and estates)[C]	650	619	527	533	583	618	694
Administrative staff (ST&T support)[D]	1,145	1,205	1,110	1,116	1,201	1,323	1,586
Administrative staff (clinical support)[E]	6,344	6,565	6,472	6,712	7,599	8,218	8,660
Administrative staff (ambulance support)[F]	368	416	438	586	674	416	358
Of which:							
Mid Essex hospital services NHS trust							
All staff[1]	3,554	3,487	3,434	3,505	3,557	3,822	4,293
Administrative staff as a percentage of all staff (%)	16	17	17	17	16	16	16
All administrative staff	557	583	587	586	563	628	690
Senior managers[A]	13	13	10	8	19	25	27
Managers[A]	65	61	59	52	49	52	66
Administrative staff (central functions)[B]	222	257	249	241	146	188	207
Administrative staff (hotel, property and estates)[C]	27	27	29	27	35	29	38
Administrative staff (ST&T support)[D]	31	31	27	32	6	9	10

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in the East of England strategic health authority area in each specified organisation and each specified staff group, as at 30 September each year

Headcount and percentage headcount

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Administrative staff (clinical support)[E]	199	194	213	226	308	325	342
Mid Essex PCT[2]							
All staff[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	604	651	1,137
Administrative staff as a percentage of all staff (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	22	25
All Administrative staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	102	143	287
Senior managers[A]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	9	21
Managers[A]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	18	43
Administrative staff (central functions)[B]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30	51	76
Administrative staff (hotel, property and estates)[C]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	2	2
Administrative staff (ST&T support)[D]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	7
Administrative staff (clinical support)[E]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	61	63	138
North East Essex PCT[3]							
All staff[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	614	816	1,463
Administrative staff as a percentage of all staff (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19	32	26
All administrative staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	118	258	378
Senior managers[A]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	16	17
Managers[A]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	40	65
Administrative staff (central functions)[B]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	46	116	154
Administrative staff (hotel, property and estates)[C]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
Administrative staff (ST&T support)[D]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	9	24
Administrative staff (clinical support)[E]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	39	77	118

Headcount and percentage headcount

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
East of England strategic health authority area						
All staff[1]	111,593	112,708	109,083	106,732	110,181	117,535
Administrative staff as a percentage of all staff (%)	21	22	21	21	22	23
All administrative staff	23,310	24,382	23,050	22,539	24,228	26,860
Senior managers[A]	1,377	1,398	1,162	1,160	1,224	1,379
Managers[A]	2,232	2,081	1,964	2,015	2,225	2,710
Administrative staff (central functions)[B]	7,875	8,349	7,786	7,857	8,669	9,687
Administrative staff (hotel, property and estates)[C]	635	585	581	535	579	684
Administrative staff (ST&T support)[D]	1,712	1,709	1,625	1,336	1,192	1,261
Administrative staff (clinical support)[E]	9,131	9,882	9,557	9,296	9,961	10,772
Administrative staff (ambulance support)[F]	348	378	375	340	378	367
Of which:						
Mid Essex hospital services NHS trust						
All staff[1]	4,025	4,140	3,859	3,432	3,502	4,232
Administrative staff as a percentage of all staff (%)	18	19	18	17	19	17
All Administrative staff	724	770	709	585	666	723
Senior managers[A]	34	38	35	31	43	29

					Headcount and percentage headcount	
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Managers[A]	61	67	56	50	57	79
Administrative staff (central functions)[B]	242	275	242	194	174	157
Administrative staff (hotel, property and estates)[C]	35	36	46	40	44	47
Administrative staff (ST&T support)[D]	8	6	7	6	19	16
Administrative staff (clinical support)[E]	344	348	323	264	329	395
Mid Essex PCT[2]						
All staff[1]	1,277	1,270	1,254	1,137	1,166	1,314
Administrative staff as a percentage of all staff (%)	25	29	27	27	29	33
All administrative staff	319	365	342	306	340	429
Senior managers[A]	17	18	19	15	23	28
Managers[A]	48	56	51	48	55	74
Administrative staff (central functions)[B]	97	118	108	95	97	131
Administrative staff (hotel, property and estates)[C]	2	3	3	4	4	4
Administrative staff (ST&T support)[D]	3	7	5	3	1	4
Administrative staff (clinical support)[E]	152	163	156	141	160	188
North East Essex PCT[3]						
All staff[1]	1,618	1,680	1,610	1,615	1,569	1,617
Administrative staff as a percentage of all staff (%)	28	31	29	27	30	33
All Administrative staff	459	522	459	434	468	536
Senior managers[A]	20	23	23	25	27	28
Managers[A]	101	66	58	47	41	56
Administrative staff (central functions)[B]	151	202	171	170	212	257
Administrative staff (hotel, property and estates)[C]	0	1	1	0	1	1
Administrative staff (ST&T support)[D]	24	22	20	16	20	19
Administrative staff (clinical support)[E]	163	208	186	176	167	175

n/a = not available.

[1] All staff includes medical and dental staff, qualified nursing, health visiting and midwifery staff, qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff, qualified ambulance staff, support to doctors and nursing staff, support to ST&T staff, support to ambulance staff, administrative staff and hotel, property and estates staff.

[2] Mid Essex PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT, Chelmsford PCT, Mid Essex PCT and Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust. It is impossible to accurately map work force figures for these predecessor organisations prior to their formation on 2001.

[3] North East Essex PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of Tendring PCT, Colchester PCT, and North East Essex PCT. It is impossible to accurately map work force figures for these predecessor organisations prior to their formation on 2001.

[A] Staff with overall responsibility for budgets, manpower or assets, or accountable for a significant area of work. Senior managers include staff at executive level and those who report directly to the board.

[B] This group includes areas such as personnel, finance, IT, legal services, library services, health education and general management support services.

[C] This group includes clerical and administrative staff working in areas such as laundry, catering, domestic services and gardens.

[D] Scientific, therapeutic and technical support staff.

[E] Clinical support includes clerical and administrative staff and maintenance and works staff working specifically in clinical areas, for example medical secretaries and medical records officers.

[F] Staff in direct support of patient care, such as ambulance control assistants.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

1. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
2. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the deficit of each NHS trust in Essex was at the end of each financial year since 1996-97. [10158]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table. This table shows both surplus and deficit outturn positions; 2002-03 is the earliest year for which information is available.

Surplus/(Deficit) (£000)

NHS Trust	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Basildon and Thurrock General Hospital NHS Trust[1]	4,765	12	—	—	—	—	—
Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust[2]	(58)	22	134	1,878	—	—	—
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust[3]	22	(5,843)	293	(1,439)	8,611	2,939	875
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	1,062	513	(2,299)	(11,202)	(2,572)	8,983	7,316
North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust[4]	5	694	616	2,474	707	510	—
New Possibilities NHS Trust[5]	(2,300)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	(3,714)	(495)	156	(5,857)	4,408	4,534	3,222
South Essex Partnership NHS Trust[6]	365	116	217	1,377	107	—	—
Southend Hospital NHS Trust[7]	4	57	17	524	2,809	—	—

[1] Basildon and Thurrock General Hospital NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 April 2004.
[2] Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust mergerd with other Ambulance NHS Trusts on 1 April 2006.
[3] Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 May 2008.
[4] North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 October 2007.
[5] New Possibilities NHS Trust merged with other Trusts on 1 April 2003.
[6] South Essex Partnership NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 May 2006.
[7] Southend Hospital NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 June 2006.

Note:

Where an NHS Trust obtains Foundation Trust status part-way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS Trust. The Department does not collect data from NHS Foundation Trusts.

Source:

NHS Trust summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2008-09

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much interest each NHS trust in Essex has paid on servicing its debt in each year since 1997. [10159]

Anne Milton: Information on the total amount of interest each national health service trust in Essex has paid on servicing its bank overdrafts, current and long term loans, obligations under finance leases and Private Finance Initiative arrangements, is shown in the following table. 2002-03 is the earliest year for which information is available.

Trust	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£000* *2008-09*
Basildon and Thurrock General Hospital NHS Trust[1]	0	0	—	—	—	—	—
Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust[2]	0	0	0	0	—	—	—
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust[3]	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	31	1,183	543
North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust[4]	112	152	0	0	0	0	—
New Possibilities NHS Trust[5]	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	8	21	0	0	0	719	551
South Essex Partnership NHS Trust[6]	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Southend Hospital NHS Trust[7]	300	298	295	291	48	—	—

[1] Basildon and Thurrock General Hospital NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 April 2004.
[2] Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust merged with other Ambulance NHS Trusts on 1 April 2006.
[3] Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 May 2008.
[4] North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 October 2007.
[5] New Possibilities NHS Trust merged with other Trusts on 1 April 2003.
[6] South Essex Partnership NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 May 2006.
[7] Southend Hospital NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 June 2006.

Notes:

1. Where an NHS Trust obtains Foundation Trust status part-way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS Trust. The Department does not collect data from NHS Foundation Trusts.
2. 'Debt' can be interpreted in a number of ways in relation to the finances of NHS Trusts. We have interpreted 'debt' to mean the total amount reported by each NHS Trust in their Balance Sheet in respect of bank overdrafts, loans, finance leases and Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangements. These are the items most readily identified with the term 'debt' in accounting terminology.

Source:

NHS Trust summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2008-09

NHS: Higher Education

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the implications of the NHS White Paper for higher education institutions; and if he will make a statement. [10930]

Anne Milton: A proposed model for the new education and training framework in England, based on the principles in the White Paper, is being developed. This will form the basis for consultation, which is expected to be launched in autumn 2010.

There will be engagement with key partners, including the high education sector, over the summer to develop the proposed model for the future.

NHS: VAT

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the amount of value added tax *(a)* paid by the NHS in 2009-10 and *(b)* to be paid by the NHS in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [12025]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held centrally.

Organs: Donors

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the UK are registered on the national organ register; and what steps his Department is taking to increase levels of organ donation. [10771]

Anne Milton: At the end of the financial year 2009-10 there were 17.1 million people on the organ donor register.

The Department has engaged with the national health service, relevant NHS and professional organisations, and the charitable sector to improve United Kingdom organ donor rates. Strong partnerships have been developed with the DVLA, Boots plc, health-related trade unions and general practitioner surgeries to encourage organ donor registration. A Programme Delivery Board, chaired by Mr Chris Rudge, National Clinical Director for Transplantation, was established in 2008 to oversee implementation of the 14 recommendations made by the independent Organ Donation Taskforce. This board has nearly completed its work.

An increase in donation rates of 11% against the 2007-08 baseline had been achieved at the end of the first year of activity and figures for year ending 2009-10, due to be published shortly, are expected to show 19%.

Pensions

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in central Government expenditure on the NHS Pension Scheme attributable to use of the consumer prices index for pension indexation in the next five years. [11060]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have not made any separate estimate of the change in central Government expenditure for the NHS Pension Scheme relating to the announcement at Budget that the uprating of the majority of state benefits, state second pension and public service pensions would be moved from retail prices index to consumer prices index, with effect from April 2011.

The estimated savings in annually managed expenditure for public service pension expenditure in each year of the forecast period are set out in the following table. These savings form part of the overall savings figures for benefits, tax credits and public service pensions published in line 22 of Table 2.1 in Budget 2010. These figures include the locally run Police and Firefighters schemes but do not include savings for the Local Government Pension Scheme.

	£million
2011-12	330
2012-13	550
2013-14	880
2014-15	1,290

Self-harm

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will commission research into the reasons for the rate of incidents of self-harm in England compared to other EU countries; and if he will make a statement; [10644]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure co-ordination of Government funding of research into the *(a)* causes of suicide, *(b)* prevention of suicide and *(c)* treatment of people who have attempted suicide unsuccessfully; and if he will make a statement; [10647]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure co-ordination of Government funding of research into the *(a)* causes and *(b)* prevention of self-harm; and if he will make a statement; [10648]

(4) if he will take steps to *(a)* raise the level of awareness of and *(b)* provide common training for front-line staff in (i) prisons, (ii) hospitals, (iii) schools, (iv) social services, (v) the police and (vi) Jobcentre Plus offices in the (A) prevention and (B) aftermath of incidents of suicide; and if he will make a statement; [10652]

(5) if he will take steps to *(a)* raise the level of awareness of and *(b)* provide common training for front-line staff in (i) prisons, (ii) hospitals, (iii) schools, (iv) social services, (v) the police and (vi) Jobcentre Plus offices in the (A) prevention and (B) aftermath of incidents of self-harm; and if he will make a statement; [10653]

(6) if he will establish at *(a)* national, *(b)* regional and *(c)* local level a mechanism for the (i) flow of information and (ii) evaluation of best practice of services and support available to those who have attempted suicide; and if he will make a statement. [10656]

Mr Burstow: The national health service will be backed with increased real resources yet we recognise that there are still efficiencies to be made. However, we intend to make sure front-line services in the NHS as a whole are protected from cuts. Our confirmation of the final £70 million instalment of growth funding from the current spending round for the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme is enabling primary care trusts to broaden the geographical coverage of services, meaning more people can get help, and to increase the range of therapies available, giving people more choice and access to the right psychological support.

We will be assessing our priorities carefully and will announce details on mental health policy, in due course. Our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive to patients' choice and management of their own care, and delivering best health outcomes.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance says that clinical and non-clinical staff who have contact with people who self-harm or attempt suicide in any setting should be provided with appropriate training to equip them to understand and care for people who have self-harmed or attempted suicide.

The National Institute for Health Research is funding a range of research on self-harm and suicide. Further information can be found at

www.netscc.ac.uk

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to co-ordinate a risk assessment of the effect on the incidence of self-harm of proposed policies and programmes; and if he will make a statement; [10657]

(2) if he will take steps to co-ordinate a risk assessment of the effect on the incidence of suicide of proposed policies and programmes; and if he will make a statement. [10658]

Mr Burstow: The consideration of health impact assessment is a mandatory part of the Government's policy development process.

EDUCATION

Academies

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that schools which wish to become academies consult *(a)* parents, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* local businesses and *(d)* others in the local area. [3105]

Mr Gibb: The governing body, which includes parental, local authority and staff representation, must agree that the school can become an academy before an application is made.

The Academies Bill has been amended to include a new clause on consultation. The new clause will ensure that the governing body of a maintained school carries out a consultation exercise on whether the school should convert to academy status. Schools will not be able to open as an academy unless a consultation exercise has been carried out.

The governing body is best placed to decide who it should consult, which could include local businesses and others in the local area. We would expect that parents and the local community are consulted.

Guidance issued to schools wishing to convert to an academy provides further detailed information on consultation. The guidance is available at

www.education.gov.uk/academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what services currently provided by local education authorities he plans new academy schools will fund out of their own budget. [5214]

Mr Gibb: The principle of academies' funding is that academies should receive the same level of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the local authority as a maintained school. In addition, they receive top-up funding to meet additional responsibilities that are no longer provided for them by the local authority and an addition for an academy's extra VAT costs which they can no longer reclaim through the local authority.

Local authorities vary considerably in the services that they provide free of charge to schools. The additional amount that academies receive in their grant to cover these services varies accordingly. The Department has recently published funding guidance on its website for all schools considering converting to an academy. The services and costs which academies have to provide for from their grant income, and which may have been provided free of charge or met by their authority, if they were a maintained school, include:

special educational needs (SEN) support services;

behaviour support services;

the education welfare service;

costs relating to 14-16 practical learning options;

the costs of school meals and milk;

the assessment of free school meals eligibility;

pupils' support (e.g. clothing grants);

the costs of repairs to, and maintenance of kitchens;

asset management costs;

licences and subscriptions (e.g. for computer software);

certain staff costs (e.g. maternity, long term sickness and trade union duties);

the costs of certain employment terminations, redundancy and early retirement;

the costs of a local authority's statutory/regulatory duties;

school improvement services;

the costs of monitoring national curriculum assessment;

museum and library services;

music services;

visual and performing arts services;

outdoor education services.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether local authority scrutiny committees may examine the performance or operations of academy schools [8980]

Mr Gibb: We want local authorities to continue to be powerful champions of educational excellence. It is up to local authority scrutiny committees to determine the areas or issues that they wish to examine and for each academy to determine the level of their involvement.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* schools and *(b)* local authorities will be required to consult staff and trade unions before plans to transfer schools to academy status are taken forward. [9081]

Mr Gibb: The current employer of school staff (either the local authority or the governing body, depending on the type of school) will need to conduct a TUPE consultation with all staff and the unions as part of the staff transfer process. We have also amended the Academies Bill so that it now requires governing bodies of converting schools to consult with those persons whom they think appropriate before entering into funding arrangements with the Secretary of State.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether new academy schools will take responsibility for legal liabilities and cases from the predecessor schools. [9098]

Mr Gibb: Where the predecessor school is an employer of staff, and in relation to its position as an employer, transfer of legal liabilities and responsibilities will be governed by Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations.

In general, the legal liabilities of the predecessor school will not automatically pass to the academy trust, but what will transfer will vary from project to project. This will depend on the nature of the legal liabilities concerned. However, it is open to the predecessor school and/or the local authority to agree with the academy trust the transfer of assets and contracts from the predecessor school/local authority to the academy trust, and as part of this agreement it may be that they would agree that some related legal liabilities would be transferred to the academy trust.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its agencies spent on the academies programme in the latest period for which figures are available; how many staff are employed by his Department and its agencies on the programme; how much is planned to be spent on the programme in 2010-11; and how many staff will be working on the programme in 2010-11. [9466]

Mr Gibb: In financial year 2009-10, the revenue spend on the academies programme was £1,272.09 million. The expected revenue spend in 2010-11 is currently estimated at £1,996.0 million. This excludes any expenditure on schools converting under the Academies Bill, which will depend on the numbers of schools. The capital spend in 2009-10 was £388.6 million through grant paid by the Department for Education and £307.3 million for projects funded through Partnerships for Schools (PfS). In 2010-11 the estimated spend is £301.0 million through departmental grant and £665.0 million for projects funded through PfS.

The Department is employing 115 staff engaged directly on the academies programme. The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) has 47 members of staff working specifically on the academies programme; this is expected to increase to 81 during FY2010-11 through transfers from elsewhere in the Agency. In PfS, 17 members of staff work on the academies programme with no increase expected in 2010.

Academies: Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will put in place contingency plans to compensate companies contracted to provide goods or services to academy schools in circumstances in which such schools default on payments under those contracts. [9622]

Mr Gibb: Academies are independent schools established by academy trusts, which are charitable companies receiving grant from the Secretary of State for the academy's running costs. It is for potential suppliers to decide whether to enter into contracts with trusts, and in the event of any default, to pursue payment in line with the terms of the contract.

Academies: Conditions of Employment

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether protection of staffing structures and terms and conditions of employment in new academy schools under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) Regulations will remain in place beyond the point of transfer. [9101]

Mr Gibb: Under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) Regulations contracts are transferred with their existing terms and the protection is indefinite. The contracts remain in force until they are brought to an end or changed in accordance with normal contractual principles.

Academies: Dudley

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Dudley have submitted an application for academy status. [8398]

Mr Gibb: To date, no schools in Dudley have submitted an application for academy status, although four have expressed an interest.

The list of primary and secondary schools within England that have expressed an interest in academy status is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies/schools-registering-interest

Academies: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* Ealing, Southall and *(b)* the London Borough of Ealing have expressed an interest in becoming academy schools. [9557]

Mr Gibb: We have received one expression of interest in converting to academy status from an outstanding school in the Ealing, Southall constituency and a total of eight from schools in the London borough of Ealing, five of which are from outstanding schools.

Academies: Enfield

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in the London Borough of Enfield have submitted an application for academy status. [8264]

Mr Gibb: Two outstanding schools in the London Borough of Enfield have applied to convert to academy status—Cuckoo Hall Primary School and Kingsmead Community School.

Academies: Faith Schools

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the likely number of new academies that will apply for faith school status. [10482]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* A school which does not currently have faith school status cannot apply to adopt faith school status as part of the process of applying to convert to become an academy. It could apply to be designated as a faith school after conversion to academy status, providing it met the criteria. We expect that the additional freedoms and flexibilities associated with academy status will make converting to an academy a popular option for many schools, including existing faith schools.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many grant-maintained faith schools have registered an interest in becoming academies. [10484]

Mr Gibb: *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* Grant-maintained status is no longer a recognised category of school as the status was abolished by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. We have, however, received many expressions of interest in converting to academy status from local authority maintained faith schools.

Academies: Finance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether academy schools will continue to have to obtain admitted body status to the Local Government Pension scheme as a condition of their funding. [8979]

Mr Gibb: Academies are scheduled bodies under the Local Government Pension scheme and are therefore automatically members. Academy trusts will continue to be required to ensure that all employees at academies other than teachers have access to the LGPS. This requirement is included in their funding agreement. A similar requirement applies to teachers in respect of the Teachers' Pension scheme. The ongoing funding of academy trusts is contingent upon the conditions in their funding agreements being met.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* individual funding agreements and *(b)* supplementary funding agreements between him and academy schools will be published on his Department's website. [9082]

Mr Gibb: All new funding agreements between the Secretary of State for Education and academy trusts, whether individual or supplementary, will be published in due course on the Department's website.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to consult parents, governors and school staff on the contents of the new model funding agreement for academy schools. [9083]

Mr Gibb: The new model funding agreement has not been finalised yet. However, we have published a draft on the Department's website and would welcome comments from any interested parties. In addition, we have amended the Academies Bill so that it requires governing bodies of converting schools to consult with those persons whom they think appropriate before entering into funding arrangements with the Secretary of State.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to re-negotiate the funding agreements of existing academy schools if the Academies Bill is passed. [9102]

Mr Gibb: We intend to discuss with each academy trust whether they wish to adopt the new model funding agreement which is being developed.

Academies: Manpower

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on the ability of staff transferring to new academy schools in September 2010 to participate in a consultation on that transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations of the holding of such a consultation during the school summer holidays. [9623]

Mr Gibb: Guidance issued to schools recommends that schools have early discussions with their staff and unions when considering conversion to academy status. Whilst there is no set period in law for the duration of a Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) Regulations consultation where the employer is proposing changes before the transfer, the guidance recommends that consultation should be of a suitable length to agree changes with staff. The governing body of a school will be best placed to determine the timing and length of the TUPE consultation. Outstanding schools that have applied for academy status for September 2010 will be aware of their obligations to consult.

Academies: North Tyneside

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date and in what form his Department received notification that St Thomas More Catholic School in North Tyneside wished to register an interest in becoming an academy school. [8653]

Mr Gibb: St Thomas More Roman Catholic High School registered an interest in becoming an academy on 11 June 2010 via the online registration form on the Department for Education website at:

www.education.gov.uk

It is important to note that this is a registration of interest for further information and should not be taken to imply that the school has made any decision or commitment to proceed with the process.

Academies: Redundancy

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether new academies will recognise the service of staff in the period before the school obtained academy status for the purposes of calculating redundancy payments. [9103]

Mr Gibb: Staff who transfer to employment by an academy would be entitled to redundancy payments in respect of service prior to conversion. This is in so far as their statutory and contractual rights to redundancy payments are transferred under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations.

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions his Department has had with the Charity Commission on proposals to make academy schools exempt charities with no public reporting requirements. [9076]

Mr Gibb: The Permanent Secretary and the chief executive of the Charity Commission have discussed proposals to make academies exempt charities and other officials have met or spoken to their Charity Commission counterparts on several occasions.

It is not the case that there will be no public reporting requirements. Academy trusts will be required to publish their annual accounts, annual report, memorandum and articles of association, funding agreement and a list of the names of the governors of the academy trust.

Academies: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Warrington have expressed an interest in academy status. [9069]

Mr Gibb: As of 14 July, five schools in Warrington local authority area have registered their interest in academy status. These schools are:

Cherry Tree Primary School
Great Sankey High School
Lysander Community High School
Westbrook Old Hall Community Primary School
Winwick Church of England Primary School.

Academies: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry South constituency have expressed an interest in becoming academy schools. [8163]

Mr Gibb: As of 8 July 2010, 182 schools in the West Midlands have expressed an interest in becoming Academies, of which four are in the Coventry South constituency.

Bedfordshire and Luton Education Business Partnership: Finance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has provided for the Bedfordshire and Luton Education Business Partnership (BLEBP) in each financial year since the partnership was established; for what purposes such funding has been provided; and what assessment he has made of BLEBP's effectiveness in fulfilling such purposes. [8791]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The Department has provided funding via the former Learning and Skills Council, and now via the Young People's Learning Agency, to local authorities to commission and fund education business partnership services (EBPs). The Department does not provide funding direct to EBPs for this purpose. The funding is to help in the effective delivery of statutory work-related learning at Key Stage 4, specifically to provide, among other things, work placements for young people and recruiting employers for this activity, and carrying out other services for schools, for example, risk assessments and Criminal Records Bureau checks.

Information on the funding made available to the Bedfordshire and Luton Education Business Partnership (BLEBP) in each financial year is not available centrally. BLEBP is currently registered for the Award for Education Business Excellence, the nationally recognised quality standard, but has yet to be formally assessed and accredited.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) pursuant to the oral statement of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 484-85, on schools funding, for what reason the location of Broadoak school was given as Eltham constituency in the list provided to the House; and if he will make a statement; [8446]

(2) pursuant to the oral statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 47-50, on education funding, what estimate he has made of the contribution of the reduction in funding to the Building Schools for the Future programme to the reduction of the Government's structural deficit; and if he will make a statement; [8447]

(3) what estimate he has made of the funding required for essential repairs to school buildings in locations where Building Schools for the Future programmes will not proceed; what contingency funding has been allocated for such repairs; and if he will make a statement; [8448]

(4) what criteria he applied to determine the Building Schools for the Future projects which were not to proceed; what account he took of *(a)* formal commitments made and *(b)* time spent by school authorities and pupils in preparing bids under the programme in making his determinations; and if he will make a statement. [8449]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July, the Department announced that Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case (OBC) approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect.

Broadoak school was incorrectly placed in the constituency of Eltham in the previously published list of projects. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education has already apologised unreservedly for the errors and has taken full responsibility for them.

The value of the schemes that have been stopped is £7.5 billion. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer made clear in his Budget statement that we would honour the overall public capital investment plans put in place by the previous Government. However, we are clear that the whole way in which we build schools needs radical reform.

We have therefore commissioned, in the context of the Government's fiscal consolidation plans and emerging policy, a comprehensive independent review of the Department's existing capital expenditure which will make recommendations on the future delivery models for capital investment. The review team will report at the end of the year. Its interim report will guide future spending decisions over the next spending review period. It will also look at how best to meet parental demand; make current design and procurement cost-effective and efficient; and consider how capital is allocated and targeted.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that Joseph Leckie school in Walsall South constituency continues to participate in the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [6549]

Mr Gibb: The Department has announced that BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. BSF plans for Joseph Leckie school have been stopped.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to inform Joseph Leckie school in Walsall South constituency of the decision on funding to be allocated to the school under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [6550]

Mr Gibb: The Department has announced that BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. BSF plans for Joseph Leckie school have been stopped.

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will issue guidance to schools which bid for funding under the Building Schools for the Future scheme on the ending of that scheme. [8142]

Mr Gibb: There are no plans for the Department to issue guidance to schools which bid for funding under the Building Schools for the Future scheme on the ending of that scheme for schools that have not reached a particular stage of the programme.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools whose Building Schools for the Future scheme projects were classified as unaffected are already under construction. [8198]

Mr Gibb: Approximately one third of unaffected schools have reached financial close for construction work and are not yet open. In normal circumstances, a building contractor begins work on site within a fortnight of financial close. In some cases, the building contractor commences work on site at risk prior to financial close.

BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have OBC approval prior to January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. The implications for projects in Sunderland local authority are as follows:

	Status
Red House Academy	Open
Academy 360	Open
Castle View Enterprise Academy	Open
Oxclose Community School	Open
Sandhill View	Open
Washington	Open
Biddick	Open
St Robert of Newminster RC School	Unaffected
Barbara Priestman	Stopped
Castlegreen Community School	Stopped
Farringdon Community Sports College	Stopped
Hetton	Stopped
Houghton Kepier Sports College	Stopped
Monkwearmouth	Stopped
Portland Specialist School	Stopped
Sunderland Pupil Referral Unit	Stopped
Southmoor Community School	Stopped
Springwell Dene	Stopped
St Anthony's Catholic Girls' School	Stopped
St Aidan's Catholic School	Stopped
Thornhill—Sunderland	Stopped
Venerable Bede CE (Aided) Secondary School	Stopped

The effects of ending the BSF programme on the construction industry were considered by the Secretary of State in coming to his decision.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will ensure that projects already announced under the Primary School Capital programme continue as planned; [8561]

(2) whether he plans to announce further projects under the Primary School Capital programme. [8562]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* Funding allocations to support local delivery of the Primary Capital programme have already been confirmed for the current financial year. Decisions about the specific projects that will benefit from this funding are matters for the relevant authority.

In the context of the Government's fiscal consolidation plans and emerging policy, we have commissioned a comprehensive independent review of all of the Department's existing capital expenditure to inform decisions about future delivery models for capital investment. This will include future investment in primary schools. The review team will report at the end of the year. Its report will guide future spending decisions over the next Spending Review period (2011-12 to 2014-15). It will also look at how best to meet parental demand; provide new primary places in areas of population growth; and secure the best possible value for money in terms of design and procurement.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria will be adopted by the capital review team in assessing projects; and what consultations that team will undertake. [8712]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The terms of reference for the review of capital programmes, announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July, can be found on the Department for Education's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk

Partnerships for Schools will lead on the review of sample projects, also announced on 5 July by the Secretary of State. Criteria for the review, including any plans for consultation, will be released shortly.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date his Department received notification of the intention of *(a)* Penketh high school and *(b)* Sir Thomas Botelar school to apply to join the Building Schools for the Future programme. [8752]

Mr Gibb: Partnerships for Schools (PfS) is the body with responsibility for managing applications from local authorities for entry to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

Warrington local authority submitted an Expression of Interest to join BSF in November 2008. The Expression of Interest listed Penketh high school and Sir Thomas Botelar school as projects that the local authority proposed for capital investment. The local authority submitted a Readiness to Deliver application to join BSF in May 2009 and Penketh high school and Sir Thomas Botelar school were included in the projects proposed for capital investment. The local authority was not invited to join the BSF programme following that application.

In September 2009 the local authority submitted a second Readiness to Deliver application and again highlighted Penketh high and Thomas Boletar schools for BSF programme in November 2009.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what criteria he plans to use to make his decision on Building Schools for the Future funding for proposed developments at sample schools; [8890]

(2) what mechanisms he plans to use in making his decision on Building Schools for the Future funding for proposed developments at sample schools; [8891]

(3) when he expects to announce his decision on Building Schools for the Future funding for proposed developments at sample schools. [8892]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State has announced his intention to determine as soon as possible which sample projects should proceed (with or without modification). His decisions will be based upon advice from officials, which in turn will be based upon discussions between Partnerships for Schools and the local authorities and schools concerned. The Secretary of State will take a range of factors into account in making his decisions.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 47-57, on education funding, what advice he received on whether to hold a consultation before publishing the list of Building Schools for the Future projects to be cancelled. [10662]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State took into account advice and information from a range of sources in coming to his decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme. As was the case with the previous Government, information relating to internal discussion and advice is not normally disclosed.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when Partnership for Schools was informed of his decision to end projects under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [10664]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State worked closely with Partnerships for Schools in coming to his decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme. As was the case with the previous Government, information relating to internal discussion and advice is not normally disclosed.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Cumbria

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on schools in West Cumbria of his decision to discontinue the Building Schools for the Future programme. [7174]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July, the Department announced that BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. This will impact on the plans for Cumbria BSF projects as follows:

Projects	
Richard Rose Central Academy	Unaffected
Richard Rose Morton Academy	Unaffected
The Furness Academy	Unaffected
West Lakes Academy	Unaffected
Mayfield Special	Stopped
Millom	Stopped
Netherall	Stopped
New Workington	Stopped
West Cumbria LC PRU	Stopped
Whitehaven	Stopped

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Darlington

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to inform Branksome, Hurworth and Longfield schools in Darlington of the decision on the funding to be allocated to them under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [5421]

Mr Gibb: The Department has announced that Building Schools for the Future projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January

2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. Plans for Branksome, Hurworth and Longfield schools in Darlington to receive BSF funding have been stopped.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the reduction in public expenditure which will take place in Ealing, Southall constituency as a result of his decisions on the Building Schools for the Future programme; [9556]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of jobs in the construction industry of his decisions on the Building Schools for the Future programme. [9700]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State considered wide-ranging advice from officials on the impact of his decision on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. This advice did not cover the specific detail of the impact on public expenditure or the number of jobs in the construction industry in Ealing, Southall.

We have not made an estimate of the likely impact of the Secretary of State's decision on BSF on the construction industry. This decision is not the end of capital investment in schools. The Secretary of State announced on 5 July a review of all capital expenditure by the Department for Education. This review will conclude by the end of 2010. Its outcome will help to determine the way in which future capital money will be used by the Department.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the Building Schools for the Future project at *(a)* Bishop Thomas Grant school, *(b)* Dunraven school and *(c)* La Retraite school in Streatham constituency. [5727]

Mr Gibb: The Department has announced that Building Schools for the Future projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. Dunraven school is a sample school and is therefore under further consideration while BSF plans for La Retraite school and Bishop Thomas Grant RC have been stopped.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what information his Department holds on the costs incurred by the London borough of *(a)* Brent and *(b)* Camden in preparing schools in their areas for the Building Schools for the Future programme; [7870]

(2) what information his Department holds on the costs incurred by *(a)* Hampstead, *(b)* Jack Taylor, *(c)* Queen's Park Community and *(d)* Royal Free Hospital Children's school on preparations for the Building Schools for the Future programme. [7871]

Mr Gibb: Costs incurred by individual local authorities and schools in preparing for Building Schools for the Future are not held centrally. Costs vary for local authorities depending on how they have chosen to manage their BSF projects and the stage they have reached.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Leeds

Mr Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans he has for the Building Schools for the Future programme in Leeds; and if he will make a statement; [5559]

(2) if he will take steps to encourage the continued participation of Parklands Girls School in Leeds in the Building Schools for the Future programme. [5560]

Mr Gibb: The Department has announced that Building Schools for the Future projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. The Leeds BSF programme, including Parklands Girls High, is unaffected.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the cancellation of Building Schools for the Future projects in Liverpool on employment and the economy in the area; [9007]

(2) what discussions he has held with Liverpool City Council on the recent cancellation of Building Schools for the Future projects in Liverpool. [9008]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State considered wide-ranging advice from officials on the impact of his decision on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

The Secretary of State for Education has had no discussions with Liverpool city council on the recent cancellation of Building Schools for the Future in Liverpool.

A Westminster Hall debate on BSF in Liverpool was held on 30 June 2010.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Stockton-on-Tees

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the Building Schools for the Future sample schools *(a)* Ian Ramsey and *(b)* Bishopsgarth in the borough of Stockton-on-Tees. [7750]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July, the Secretary of State announced that projects within the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme that have reached financial close will continue, together with follow-up projects for which the outline business cases were approved before 1 January 2010. We are considering further projects prioritised locally as sample projects that have reached the stage where dialogue with bidders is closed. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue have been stopped.

Ian Ramsey and Bishopsgarth schools in Stockton-on-Tees are not amongst the sample schemes and therefore will not continue as part of the BSF programme.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of his decision to terminate the Building Schools for the Future programme on the number of construction jobs in Sunderland Central constituency; [7118]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that each school in Sunderland Central constituency which has had a Building Schools for the Future project terminated before completion participates in the new school building programme; [7120]

(3) what estimate he has made of the amount which will be saved by stopping the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme for all schools in Sunderland Central constituency; what estimate he has made of expenditure on payments triggered by break clauses as a consequence of his decision; and if he will take steps to compensate schools in the constituency for money and time they have spent on the BSF programme prior to its cancellation. [7121]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July, the Department announced that BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat project which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. The following projects in Sunderland Central have stopped:

Barbara Priestman

Monkwearmouth

Sunderland pupil referral unit

Southmoor community school

St Anthony's Catholic girls' school

St Aidan's Catholic school

Thornhill—Sunderland

Venerable Bede CE (aided) secondary school.

The Department has launched a comprehensive review of all of its capital programmes to ensure that future capital investment represents good value and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit. The cancellation of BSF does not represent the end of capital investment in schools. The review will make recommendations to help shape the design of future capital investment in schools.

It is estimated that circa £84 million will be saved by stopping the Building Schools for the Future programme in Sunderland Central constituency. No contracts have been signed for the second wave of the BSF programme for Sunderland metropolitan borough council, and therefore no break clauses will be triggered. There are no plans to compensate schools for money and time spent on the BSF programme.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the planned expenditure on the Building Schools for the Future programme in *(a)* Houghton and Sunderland South constituency and *(b)* Sunderland would have been for (i) mainstream provision and (ii) special needs and other non-mainstream provision in each of the next three years had the programme not been discontinued; [7922]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on schools in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency of his decision to discontinue the Building Schools for the Future programme; [7923]

(3) what estimate he has made of the effects of ending the Building Schools for the Future programme on the number of construction jobs in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [7924]

Mr Gibb: Sunderland had two Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects, the first of which was Wave 1 and this project has received the funding available to it. The second project, in BSF Wave 7, was in the early stages of planning and while an indicative overall funding envelope of £127 million had been determined, the local authority had not submitted its outline business case setting out each school's investment and delivery strategy. For this reason, information in the form requested is not held centrally.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Telford

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Telford and the Wrekin are part of his Department's review of the Building Schools for the Future Programme. [5865]

Mr Gibb: The Department has announced that BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. Sample schemes in projects that have reached close of dialogue are under further consideration. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. All schools in Telford and the Wrekin will be unaffected by the Department's review of the BSF programme. BSF investment in the following schools will continue as planned:

Unaffected schools

Abraham Darby Academy

Madeley Academy (extension)

Thomas Telford CTC

Adams' Grammar School

Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College

The Burton Borough School

Charlton School

Ercall Wood Technology College

Hadley Learning Community—Secondary Phase

The Lord Silkin School

Mount Gilbert Special School

Newport Girls High School

The Phoenix School

Southall Special School

Sutherland Business and Enterprise College School

The Bridge Special School

Wrockwardine Wood School.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Wandsworth

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) which schools in Wandsworth have *(a)* received and *(b)* made use of funding from the Building Schools for the Future programme; [8541]

(2) what the planned dates of *(a)* financial close and *(b)* project completion were for each Building Schools for the Future project in the London borough of Wandsworth; [8542]

(3) when Wandsworth borough council was first invited to bid for Government funding for school capital programmes under the Building Schools for the Future programme; [8661]

(4) to which wave of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme Wandsworth borough council was allocated when initially granted BSF funding; and when it was initially expected each school would reach financial close on its projects. [8723]

Mr Gibb: No schools in the London borough of Wandsworth have received funding from the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. The London borough of Wandsworth was invited to join Wave 5 of the programme and responded with its readiness to deliver application in October 2006. It officially joined the programme with its remit meeting in September 2007.

The following table sets out the schools that Wandsworth proposed for capital investment, their expected date of financial close and estimated opening date.

School	*Sample/Non sample*	*Estimated school financial close*	*Estimated school opening date*
Burntwood	Sample	November 2010	January 2013
Southfields	Sample	November 2010	January 2013
Elliott	Non sample	December 2011	September 2013
Saint John Bosco	Non sample	June 2011	September 2013
Battersea Park	Non sample	February 2013	September 2014
Bradstow	Non sample	March 2015	April 2016
Chestnut Grove	Non sample	February 2013	May 2014
Ernest Bevin	Non sample	November 2013	September 2015
Francis Barber	Non sample	May 2014	February 2015
Garratt Park	Non sample	March 2015	September 2015
Graveney	Non sample	July 2013	September 2016
Linden Lodge	Non sample	July 2013	October 2013
Nightingale	Non sample	July 2015	May 2016
Oak Lodge	Non sample	February 2013	April 2015
Paddock	Non sample	July 2013	October 2013
St Cecila's	Non sample	May 2014	May 2015

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether his Department had discussions with Warrington borough council before his announcement on the Building Schools for the Future programme; [8000]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effects his decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme will have on levels of educational inequality in Warrington; [8001]

(3) what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of construction jobs in Warrington of his announcement on the Building Schools for the Future programme; [8002]

(4) what representations he has received from Warrington borough council on his decisions not to proceed with plans under the Building Schools for the Future programme in Warrington North constituency; [8003]

(5) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* Warrington borough council on the relationship between plans to rebuild William Beaumont high school and the development of the Orford Park project in Warrington North; [8004]

(6) what estimate he has made of the effect of the decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme on the number of *(a)* jobs and *(b)* apprenticeships in Warrington. [8005]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with or representations from Warrington borough council about Building Schools for the Future (BSF). Nor has the Secretary of State discussed with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the relationship between plans to re-build William Beamont high school and the development of the Orford Park project, although departmental officials have been in discussion with Warrington borough council about the impact of the BSF announcement on projects in their area. No assessment has been made of the effects of his decisions on BSF on levels of educational inequality specifically in Warrington.

On 5 July the Secretary of State announced a review of the Department's capital programmes. The review will make recommendations to help shape decisions over future capital investment in schools, to ensure that investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage.

The effects of ending the BSF programme on the construction industry were considered by the Secretary of State in coming to his decision. The cancellation of BSF does not represent the end of capital investment in schools or the opportunities for employment in the construction industry. In particular, a more flexible and streamlined approach is likely to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises to become involved.

Children: Protection

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the role of children and learners directorates in Government Offices for the Regions in safeguarding children; and what assessment he has made of the effect on safeguarding children of the cessation of such offices. [10801]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The coalition agreement announced the decision to close the Government Office for London and to review the position of the other eight Government Offices. On 22 July, the

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the Government's intention in principle to abolish the remaining eight Government offices, subject to using the spending review to resolve consequential issues. A final decision will be made at the end of the spending review in the autumn. In the light of that announcement the six DFE-funded GO-based field forces will also come to an end earlier than planned. The six field forces to end early are: Safeguarding advisers; Children and Learners Strategic advisers; Child Poverty advisers; Teenage pregnancy co-ordinators; Sustainable schools network; and, Healthy schools co-ordinators (jointly funded with DH).

Closing the GO network is in line with the Government's intention to remove administrative layers and simplify accountability across national and local government and service providers, and to reduce public expenditure. This also supports the Government's commitment to empower local authorities by removing top down monitoring, support and challenge. This approach aims to free up local authorities so they can focus on their own improvement agendas.

Local authorities themselves have called for greater freedom to plan and manage their own improvement and to be innovative in how they deliver high quality services for children and young people. We are keen to work with the sector in developing its own, sector-led, models for improvement—for example through the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes which shares good practice round the system and uses specialists seconded from the sector that councils can draw on as and when they want.

The Government are determined to make child protection as effective as can be, with a focus on better frontline services. We will not do anything that will jeopardise or compromise child safety. We are seeking to put responsibility back to frontline services to ensure they have the right level of local scrutiny and accountability to drive up quality and provide the kind of children's services the public want.

Children: South Yorkshire

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that introduction of the proposed pupil premium does not lead to a reduction in funding for disadvantaged children in South Yorkshire. [9463]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to the introduction of the pupil premium for disadvantaged children. The pupil premium will lead to an increase in funding for disadvantaged children as it will be funded from savings found outside the schools budget. The Secretary of State for Education announced a consultation on the implementation of the pupil premium in a written ministerial statement on 26 July 2010.

Communications Skills

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to hold, together with the Department of Health, events to mark a National Year of Speech, Language and Communication in 2011-12. [8475]

Sarah Teather: Funding for activities in 2011-12 is being considered as part of the Government's spending review. Further details of the spending review can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_index.htm

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated Ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5543]

Tim Loughton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on the use of official cars by Ministers on Tuesday 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 202W.

The Department does not record the details of individual journeys made by ministerial cars.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7376]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is a follows:

(a) The information requested is not separately identified within the Department's published resource accounts. The requested information could be obtained through a detailed analysis of contracts with suppliers but this could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

(b) The Department does not obtain information at that level of detail from each of our non-departmental public bodies; this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7993]

Tim Loughton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 202W.

In addition, the Government publish on a quarterly basis, the expenses incurred by the most senior officials which includes use of the Government car service and other travel expenses.

Education Maintenance Allowance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of *(a)* notices of entitlement issued and *(b)* payments made from the education maintenance allowance of the proposed reduction in its administration budget. [10385]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* Students will notice no impact as a result of savings made to the education maintenance allowance administration budget. Savings have been made as a result of the development of more efficient processing systems. Notices of entitlement and payments in 2010-11 will continue to be issued to current service standards.

Free School Meals

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of pupils in each local authority who would have received a free school meal had the 2009 Pre-Budget Report proposal on extending the eligibility criteria been implemented. [10640]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* Information is shown in the following table, by local authority and Government Office region, for the estimated number of pupils who would have been entitled to free school meals had the proposal to extend provision been implemented.

Number of Children estimated that would have become eligible for FSM in September 2010 and in total by September 2011

Local Authority	*Estimates based on revised totals (thousand)*	
	September 2010	*September 2011*
England	420.0	930.0
North East	22.0	48.8
Darlington	1.0	2.2
Durham	4.3	9.5
Gateshead	1.6	3.5
Hartlepool	0.9	2.0
Middlesbrough	1.5	3.4
Newcastle upon Tyne	2.1	4.7
North Tyneside	1.6	3.6
Northumberland	2.3	5.1
Redcar and Cleveland	1.2	2.7
South Tyneside	1.2	2.7
Stockton-on-Tees	1.7	3.8
Sunderland	2.5	5.5
North West	64.7	143.3
Blackburn with Darwen	2.6	5.7
Blackpool	1.6	3.5
Bolton	3.4	7.5
Bury	2.0	4.3
Cheshire East	2.1	4.6
Cheshire West and Chester	2.2	4.8
Cumbria	3.6	7.9
Halton	1.1	2.4
Knowsley	1.6	3.6
Lancashire	10.7	23.7
Liverpool	4.1	9.0
Manchester	5.7	12.7
Oldham	3.3	7.3
Rochdale	2.6	5.7
Salford	2.4	5.2
Sefton	2.1	4.7
St. Helens	1.3	2.9
Stockport	2.0	4.5
Tameside	2.3	5.1
Trafford	1.7	3.7
Warrington	1.3	2.9
Wigan	2.8	6.1
Wirral	2.4	5.4
Yorks and Humber	52.7	116.6
Barnsley	2.1	4.7
Bradford	9.7	21.5
Calderdale	2.2	5.0
Doncaster	3.0	6.7
East Riding of Yorkshire	2.3	5.1
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	2.6	5.7
Kirklees	5.3	11.7
Leeds	6.5	14.5
North East Lincolnshire	1.3	2.9
North Lincolnshire	1.4	3.1
North Yorkshire	4.1	9.1
Rotherham	2.8	6.1
Sheffield	5.1	11.3
Wakefield	3.1	6.8
York	1.1	2.5
East Midlands	37.1	82.1
Derby	3.3	7.3
Derbyshire	5.4	12.0
Leicester	4.2	9.4
Leicestershire	4.3	9.6
Lincolnshire	5.6	12.3
Northamptonshire	5.5	12.2
Nottingham	3.1	6.9
Nottinghamshire	5.5	12.2
Rutland	0.2	0.4
West Midlands	51.3	113.5
Birmingham	14.8	32.7
Coventry	3.1	6.9
Dudley	2.4	5.4
Herefordshire	1.3	2.8
Sandwell	3.9	8.7
Shropshire	1.9	4.3
Solihull	1.3	2.9
Staffordshire	5.5	12.2
Stoke-on-Trent	2.9	6.4
Telford and Wrekin	1.5	3.3
Walsall	2.9	6.5
Warwickshire	3.2	7.2
Wolverhampton	2.4	5.3
Worcestershire	4.0	8.9
East of England	38.5	85.3
Bedford	1.3	2.8
Central Bedfordshire	1.3	2.9

Number of Children estimated that would have become eligible for FSM in September 2010 and in total by September 2011

Local Authority	*Estimates based on revised totals (thousand)*	
	September 2010	*September 2011*
Cambridgeshire	3.1	6.8
Essex	7.8	17.3
Hertfordshire	6.1	13.6
Luton	3.0	6.6
Norfolk	6.0	13.2
Peterborough	2.6	5.9
Southend-on-Sea	1.3	2.9
Suffolk	4.8	10.6
Thurrock	1.2	2.7
London	67.3	148.9
Inner London	28.4	62.8
Camden	1.4	3.0
City of London	0.0	0.1
Hackney	3.0	6.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.8	1.7
Haringey	3.2	7.0
Islington	1.2	2.7
Kensington and Chelsea	0.5	1.2
Lambeth	2.3	5.1
Lewisham	2.2	4.9
Newham	5.1	11.4
Southwark	2.5	5.6
Tower Hamlets	3.5	7.7
Wandsworth	1.7	3.7
Westminster	1.0	2.2
Outer London	38.9	86.1
Barking and Dagenham	2.3	5.1
Barnet	2.4	5.2
Bexley	1.5	3.3
Brent	3.4	7.5
Bromley	1.4	3.2
Croydon	2.9	6.4
Ealing	2.6	5.7
Enfield	3.8	8.4
Greenwich	1.9	4.3
Harrow	1.7	3.7
Havering	1.3	2.9
Hillingdon	1.9	4.2
Hounslow	2.1	4.7
Kingston upon Thames	0.9	2.0
Merton	1.5	3.3
Redbridge	3.0	6.6
Richmond upon Thames	0.6	1.2
Sutton	1.1	2.4
Waltham Forest	2.8	6.2
South East	50.4	111.:
Bracknell Forest	0.6	1.3
Brighton and Hove	1.6	3.5
Buckinghamshire	2.9	6.5
East Sussex	3.6	8.1
Hampshire	6.6	14.7
Isle of Wight	1.0	2.2
Kent	9.9	22.0
Medway	2.1	4.7
Milton Keynes	2.0	4.5
Oxfordshire	3.2	7.0
Portsmouth	1.6	3.5
Reading	1.0	2.2
Slough	1.7	3.7
Southampton	1.6	3.6
Surrey	4.5	9.9
West Berkshire	0.6	1.2
West Sussex	4.6	10.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.6	1.3
Wokingham	0.6	1.2
South West	36.1	79.8
Bath and North East Somerset	0.8	1.9
Bournemouth	1.0	2.2
Bristol, City of	2.8	6.1
Cornwall	4.4	9.7
Devon	5.6	12.3
Dorset	2.6	5.7
Gloucestershire	3.6	7.9
Isles of Scilly	0.0	0.0
North Somerset	1.3	2.9
Plymouth	2.2	4.8
Poole	1.0	2.1
Somerset	3.7	8.2
South Gloucestershire	1.6	3.6
Swindon	1.6	3.6
Torbay	1.1	2.5
Wiltshire	2.8	6.2

Note:

Uses HMRC's December 2009 Publication Dataset. Assumes extension to low income working families. Figures may not sum due to rounding

Free School Meals: Enfield

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the educational achievement of pupils in receipt of free school meals in schools in the Enfield local authority area. [6748]

Mr Gibb: Information is published on an annual basis on the performance of all pupils including breakdowns for those eligible for free school meals and these can be accessed on the Department's website. We have made a clear commitment to narrowing attainment gaps between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers through our recently announced pupil premium.

The latest publications containing information on the achievement of pupils eligible for free school meals at local authority level are available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000911/index.shtml

(Table 6): Early Years Foundation Stage Profile attainment published on 28 January 2010.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000899/index.shtml

(Table 5): Key Stage 1 attainment published on 8 December 2009.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000889/index.shtml

(Table 5): Key Stage 2 attainment published on 19 November 2009.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000900/index.shtml

(Table 5): GCSE attainment published on 15 December 2009.

Free School Meals: North East

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of pupils resident in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency who would have been entitled to free school meals had the proposal to extend provision been implemented. [9473]

Mr Gibb: Information is shown in the following table, by local authority and Government Office region, for the estimated number of pupils who would have been entitled to free school meals had the proposal to extend provision been implemented. The Department does not hold information about eligibility for free school meals by constituency.

Number of children estimated that would have become eligible for FSM in September 2010 and in total by September 2011

		Thousand
	Estimates based on revised totals	
Local authority	*September 2010*	*September 2011*
England	420.0	930.0
North East	22.0	48.8
Darlington	1.0	2.2
Durham	4.3	9.5
Gateshead	1.6	3.5
Hartlepool	0.9	2.0
Middlesbrough	1.5	3.4
Newcastle upon Tyne	2.1	4.7
North Tyneside	1.6	3.6
Northumberland	2.3	5.1
Redcar and Cleveland	1.2	2.7
South Tyneside	1.2	2.7
Stockton-on-Tees	1.7	3.8
Sunderland	2.5	5.5
North West	64.7	143.3
Blackburn with Darwen	2.6	5.7
Blackpool	1.6	3.5
Bolton	3.4	7.5
Bury	2.0	4.3
Cheshire East	2.1	4.6
Cheshire West and Chester	2.2	4.8
Cumbria	3.6	7.9
Halton	1.1	2.4
Knowsley	1.6	3.6
Lancashire	10.7	23.7
Liverpool	4.1	9.0
Manchester	5.7	12.7
Oldham	3.3	7.3
Rochdale	2.6	5.7
Salford	2.4	5.2
Sefton	2.1	4.7
St Helens	1.3	2.9
Stockport	2.0	4.5
Tameside	2.3	5.1
Trafford	1.7	3.7
Warrington	1.3	2.9
Wigan	2.8	6.1
Wirral	2.4	5.4
Yorks and Humber	52.7	116.6
Barnsley	2.1	4.7
Bradford	9.7	21.5
Calderdale	2.2	5.0
Doncaster	3.0	6.7
East Riding of Yorkshire	2.3	5.1
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	2.6	5.7
Kirklees	5.3	11.7
Leeds	6.5	14.5
North East Lincolnshire	1.3	2.9
North Lincolnshire	1.4	3.1
North Yorkshire	4.1	9.1
Rotherham	2.8	6.1
Sheffield	5.1	11.3
Wakefield	3.1	6.8
York	1.1	2.5
East Midlands	37.1	82.1
Derby	3.3	7.3
Derbyshire	5.4	12.0
Leicester	4.2	9.4
Leicestershire	4.3	9.6
Lincolnshire	5.6	12.3
Northamptonshire	5.5	12.2
Nottingham	3.1	6.9
Nottinghamshire	5.5	12.2
Rutland	0.2	0.4
West Midlands	51.3	113.5
Birmingham	14.8	32.7
Coventry	3.1	6.9
Dudley	2.4	5.4
Herefordshire	1.3	2.8
Sandwell	3.9	8.7
Shropshire	1.9	4.3
Solihull	1.3	2.9
Staffordshire	5.5	12.2
Stoke-on-Trent	2.9	6.4
Telford and Wrekin	1.5	3.3
Walsall	2.9	6.5
Warwickshire	3.2	7.2
Wolverhampton	2.4	5.3
Worcestershire	4.0	8.9

Number of children estimated that would have become eligible for FSM in September 2010 and in total by September 2011

Thousand

	Estimates based on revised totals	
Local authority	*September 2010*	*September 2011*
East of England	38.5	85.3
Bedford	1.3	2.8
Central Bedfordshire	1.3	2.9
Cambridgeshire	3.1	6.8
Essex	7.8	17.3
Hertfordshire	6.1	13.6
Luton	3.0	6.6
Norfolk	6.0	13.2
Peterborough	2.6	5.9
Southend-on-Sea	1.3	2.9
Suffolk	4.8	10.6
Thurrock	1.2	2.7
London	67.3	148.9
Inner London	28.4	62.8
Camden	1.4	3.0
City of London	0.0	0.1
Hackney	3.0	6.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.8	1.7
Haringey	3.2	7.0
Islington	1.2	2.7
Kensington and Chelsea	0.5	1.2
Lambeth	2.3	5.1
Lewisham	2.2	4.9
Newham	5.1	11.4
Southwark	2.5	5.6
Tower Hamlets	3.5	7.7
Wandsworth	1.7	3.7
Westminster	1.0	2.2
Outer London	38.9	86.1
Barking and Dagenham	2.3	5.1
Barnet	2.4	5.2
Bexley	1.5	3.3
Brent	3.4	7.5
Bromley	1.4	3.2
Croydon	2.9	6.4
Ealing	2.6	5.7
Enfield	3.8	8.4
Greenwich	1.9	4.3
Harrow	1.7	3.7
Havering	1.3	2.9
Hillingdon	1.9	4.2
Hounslow	2.1	4.7
Kingston upon Thames	0.9	2.0
Merton	1.5	3.3
Redbridge	3.0	6.6
Richmond upon Thames	0.6	1.2
Sutton	1.1	2.4
Waltham Forest	2.8	6.2
South East	50.4	111.5
Bracknell Forest	0.6	1.3
Brighton and Hove	1.6	3.5
Buckinghamshire	2.9	6.5
East Sussex	3.6	8.1
Hampshire	6.6	14.7
Isle of Wight	1.0	2.2
Kent	9.9	22.0
Medway	2.1	4.7
Milton Keynes	2.0	4.5
Oxfordshire	3.2	7.0
Portsmouth	1.6	3.5
Reading	1.0	2.2
Slough	1.7	3.7
Southampton	1.6	3.6
Surrey	4.5	9.9
West Berkshire	0.6	1.2
West Sussex	4.6	10.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.6	1.3
Wokingham	0.6	1.2
South West	36.1	79.8
Bath and North East Somerset	0.8	1.9
Bournemouth	1.0	2.2
Bristol, City of	2.8	6.1
Cornwall	4.4	9.7
Devon	5.6	12.3
Dorset	2.6	5.7
Gloucestershire	3.6	7.9
Isles of Scilly	0.0	0.0
North Somerset	1.3	2.9
Plymouth	2.2	4.8
Poole	1.0	2.1
Somerset	3.7	8.2
South Gloucestershire	1.6	3.6
Swindon	1.6	3.6
Torbay	1.1	2.5
Wiltshire	2.8	6.2

Notes:
1. Uses HMRC's December 2009 Publication Dataset.
2. Assumes extension to low income working families.
3. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Free Schools: Greater London

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest in free school status have been received from schools in London. [8700]

Mr Gibb: The Department has received two Free School proposal forms from schools in Greater London.

GCE A-levels: Disadvantaged

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils eligible for free school meals obtained *(a)* three, *(b)* four and *(c)* five A grades at A level in each of the last 10 years. [5689]

Mr Gibb: The information available is given in the following table.

Number of year 13 candidates[1] eligible for free school meals[2] achieving A grades at A-level[3]

	3 or more A grades	4 or more A grades[4]	5 or more A grades[4]
2006	377	97	4
2007	433	113	20
2008	432	97	17
2009	509	118	19

[1] Candidates aged 16-18 at the end of advanced level study in all schools and colleges.

[2] Year 13 candidates that were eligible for free school meals when in year 11. Free school meal eligibility in year 11 is only available for those candidates who were in maintained schools at the end of key stage 4.

[3] GCE and Applied A-levels and Double Awards are included.

[4] Candidates achieving 5 or more A grades are also included in the "4 or more A grades" and "3 or more A grades" columns. Similarly, candidates achieving 4 or more A grades are also included in the figures for "3 or more A grades".

Source:

National Pupil Database.

Figures linking A-level achievements to year 11 free school meal eligibility are not readily available prior to 2006. Figures for earlier years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals gained a grade C or above at GCSE in (i) modern languages, (ii) history, (iii) science and (iv) mathematics in each of the last 10 years. [5605]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is provided in the following table for years from 2003. Figures prior to 2003 are not available because attainment data were only matched to pupil characteristics from 2003 onwards.

The number of pupils achieving A— C at GCSE or equivalent in the following subjects*

			Modern Foreign Languages[1]	History	Science[2]	Mathematics
2003	FSM	Boys	3,235	2,319	—	23,107
		Girls	6,379	2,997	—	24,207
	Non—FSM	Boys	67,159	46,338		108,610
		Girls	105,280	52,060	—	102,562
2004	FSM	Boys	3,456	2,507	—	23,622
		Girls	6,608	3,126	—	24,735
	Non—FSM	Boys	69,027	50,093		108,757
		Girls	106,609	55,083	—	103,477
2005	FSM	Boys	3,191	2,512	—	22,512
		Girls	6,183	3,179	—	23,547
	Non—FSM	Boys	66,875	50,736		103,523
		Girls	102,369	55,836	—	97,779
2006	FSM	Boys	4,049	2,532	—	10,510
		Girls	6,910	3,213	—	10,647
	Non—FSM	Boys	64,373	52,841	—	142,149
		Girls	97,221	56,462	—	143,350
2007	FSM	Boys	3,864	2,527	—	11,074
		Girls	6,484	3,161	—	11,397
	Non—FSM	Boys	61,523	52,770		149,880
		Girls	91,770	55,967	—	149,997
2008	FSM	Boys	3,800	2,410	10,192	12,067
		Girls	6,254	3,107	10,727	11,953
	Non—FSM	Boys	61,565	53,262	139,161	156,214
		Girls	91,149	57,484	139,046	154,658
2009	FSM	Boys	3,999	2,522	12,236	13,252
		Girls	6,376	3,349	13,047	12,808
	Non—FSM	Boys	62,488	52,812	142,613	158,646
		Girls	91,033	56,295	144,646	153,835

[1] Modern Foreign Language (MFL) includes 21 separate modern languages that are available on the National Pupil Database (NPD) from 2006. For the years 2003 to 2005, MFL includes just French, German and Spanish.

[2] Science includes pupils who have achieved grades A*-C in at least two science GCSEs (or equivalent). Specifically, this includes core and additional science or two of the three separate science GCSEs of physics, chemistry and biology. This science indicator was only matched on to the NPD from 2008.

Grandparents: Parental Responsibility

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to enhance the role of grandparents and extended kin in caring for children; and if he will make a statement. [7949]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* Grandparents and other relatives play an important role in many families' lives—helping out with child care, providing emotional and financial support, being there when times are hard—for their children and their grandchildren. Sometimes that can include taking on full time care of their grandchildren.

Children who cannot live with their parents benefit from being brought up by their wider family. Relatives should receive the support they need to do this. The Government will be carefully considering the responses to the consultation on new statutory guidance for local authorities on support for family and friends carers, which ended on 18 June 2010.

The Government are also committed to reform of the family justice system, as set out in the Coalition Agreement. The review is under way and will examine the system as a whole. I have asked the chair of the review panel to look specifically at the issue of how best to support contact between children and grandparents and he has agreed to address this in the final report, expected in 2011.

Personal, Social, Health And Economic Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 570W, on personal, social, health and economic education, what the *(a)* prefix and *(b)* title is of each file held by his Department on personal, social and health education; and if he will make a statement. [10624]

Mr Gibb: PSHE embraces a large number of topics including sex education, drugs and alcohol, financial capability, health and safety and work-related learning. The Department has files on all of these as well as on general PSHE policy.

Primary Education: Capital Investment

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the Primary Capital Programme; and if he will make a statement. [8539]

Mr Gibb: Funding allocations to support local delivery of the Primary Capital Programme have already been confirmed for the current financial year.

In the context of the Government's fiscal consolidation plans and emerging policy, we have commissioned a comprehensive independent review of all of the Department's existing capital expenditure to inform decisions about future delivery models for capital investment. This will include future investment in primary schools. The review team will report at the end of the year. Its report will guide future spending decisions over the next spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15). It will also look at how best to meet parental demand; provide new primary places in areas of population growth; and secure the best possible value for money in terms of design and procurement.

Public Expenditure

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether equality impact assessments will be used in determining the areas of his Department's budget in respect of which spending will be reduced. [8341]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 14 July 2010]:* We are considering the equality implications of potential spending decisions and equality impact assessments will be carried out as necessary.

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what timetable he has set for the abolition of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency; what plans he has for the transfer of its functions; and if he will make a statement. [10936]

Mr Gibb: We intend to introduce legislation to abolish the QCDA, and in the meantime Department Officials are working closely with the QCDA on the orderly winding down of its functions.

We are committed to ensuring that national curriculum tests continue to be delivered effectively, and therefore currently envisage that these functions would be needed after closure.

Where QCDA is presently engaged in activity that supports the administration of examinations (such as Diploma Awarding) we would wish to retain such functions until these activities are no longer required or can be transferred. Our view is that Government or its agencies should in principle not be involved in this kind of work in the future, which is properly the domain of awarding bodies.

School Leaving

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to bring forward proposals to raise the participation age in education and training to 17 years by 2013 and 18 years by 2015. [11017]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* We have no plans to introduce the increase in the participation age to 17 years any earlier than 2013, or to introduce the increase to 18 years earlier than 2015. We set out in "The Coalition: our programme for government" our plans for education policy over the coming months and years, making clear our aspiration to maximise opportunities for all young people. We are currently developing plans for specific policy areas to ensure we achieve this.

Schools: Capital Investment

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether schools capital allocations are made to local authorities which are not part of the Building Schools for the Future scheme. [8498]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 July 2010]:* Schools capital allocations are made to all local authorities whether they are, or are not, in the Building Schools for the Future programme. These include devolved allocations at local authority and school level, targeted allocations, and the strategic primary school programme.

Schools: Cricket

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of support for cricket in state schools. [11139]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The annual PE and Sport survey collects data from maintained schools in England relating to schools' provision for PE and sport. Over the period in question, the percentage of schools providing cricket for their pupils increased from 85% in 2003/04 to 89% in 2008/09. This makes cricket the fifth most popular sport provided by schools, behind only football, dance, athletics and gymnastics.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of trends in participation in cricket as part of *(a)* PE activity and *(b)* school sport in state schools in the period from 2003 to 2010. [11140]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The annual PE and Sport survey collects data from maintained schools in England relating to schools' provision for PE and sport. Over the period in question, the percentage of schools providing cricket for their pupils increased from 85% in 2003/04 to 89% in 2008/09.

Schools: Dudley

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans he has to refurbish primary and secondary schools in Dudley North constituency; [8399]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the Building Schools for the Future programme from *(a)* Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, *(b)* bodies and charities in Dudley borough and *(c)* residents of Dudley. [8400]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State has not received any recent representations from Dudley metropolitan borough council, bodies and charities in the borough and residents of Dudley.

On 5 July the Secretary of State for Education announced a review of the Department's capital programmes including investment in primary and secondary schools. The review will make recommendations to help shape the decision of future capital investment in schools, to ensure that investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage. The cancellation of Building Schools for the Future does not represent the end of capital investment in schools.

Schools: ICT

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will provide assistance to schools affected by the reduction in the Harnessing Technology Grant to enable them to maintain their ICT commitments. [9462]

Mr Gibb: As part of a range of savings, the Harnessing Technology Grant is to be reduced by 50% in the current financial year. ICT infrastructure is now well-embedded in schools. Local authorities have been notified of the changes and they are best placed to manage the reduction, in consultation with their Schools Forum, to support a sustainable funding model based on local circumstances.

Schools: Management

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest there have been in the free schools scheme in the *(a)* Bristol, *(b)* South Gloucestershire and *(c)* Bath and North East Somerset local authority areas. [7389]

Mr Gibb: The Department has received one proposal from the Bristol local authority area from Parents' Voice in North-West Bristol seeking to establish an all-age school. At this stage no proposals have been received from the South Gloucestershire, or the Bath and North East Somerset local authority areas.

Science: GCSE

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that all schools offer the possibility for students to study three separate science subjects at GCSE level. [10879]

Mr Gibb: The Government believes it important that all pupils have the opportunity to study the three separate sciences. We are currently considering what more needs to be done in addition to what is already in place to enable all pupils to have access to these GCSEs, including, for instance, looking at incentives to encourage more top science graduates into teaching.

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on provision of funding for *(a)* sixth form colleges, *(b)* secondary schools with sixth forms and *(c)* other post-16 providers; and if he will make a statement. [10051]

Mr Gibb: The total investment in 16-18 learning in 2010-11 will be £8.2 billion, which will fund around 1.6 million places. As announced at the end of May, the spending on 16-18 core participation funding for 2010-11 will be maintained and protected from any in-year spending cuts. At present, funding is provided to all three types of provider through the 16-18 national funding formulae. The learner responsive model (for schools and colleges) is managed by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) as one of its key roles. The Department also funds 16-18 Apprenticeships where funding is calculated through the employer responsive model (for work based learning) managed by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), as part of the Skills Funding Agency.

The levels of funding from 2011-12 will be determined as part of the spending review this autumn, and considerations surrounding the current funding methodology and formula will continue to form a part of that process. We have already taken steps to reduce bureaucracy in 16-18 education and simplify the 16-18 funding process by ensuring that funding follows the choices of young people. From the academic year 2011-12, core allocation budgets for school sixth forms and colleges will be based on the equivalent of lagged pupil numbers. We will also ensure that local authorities can focus on their strategic role as champions of young people, taking action where they identify significant issues in terms of gaps in supply or quality, particularly in ensuring access among the most vulnerable groups.

Sixth Form Education: Public Expenditure

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether capital expenditure by sixth form colleges will be included within the remit of his recently announced review to advise on capital expenditure. [8664]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State announced that capital expenditure by sixth form colleges will be included in the recently announced review.

Sure Start Programme: Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to ring-fence funding for continued provision of local Sure Start programmes. [6799]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 8 July 2010]:* Sure Start Local Programmes were the first stage in the delivery of the Sure Start Children's Centre service. They provided services for fewer than half of the under fives living in the 20% most deprived wards in England. The Government decided from 2003 to move toward a national programme of Sure Start Children's Centres offering a universal, mainstream service for children under five and their families.

Funding for Sure Start Children's Centres is part of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant, which is ring-fenced. Funding for former Sure Start Local Programmes was ring-fenced, within this grant, for the original centres in the most deprived areas. On 24 May, the Chancellor announced that revenue funding for Sure Start, including former Sure Start Local Programmes, will be protected from in-year cuts in 2010-11, and both ring fences maintained this year. Questions about future funding and the existence of any ring fences in future years will be dependent on the outcome of the spending review. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure sufficient provision of children's centres to meet local need, and it is important, in the current financial climate, that, we make sure we are getting the most out of every pound spent.

Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many temporary staff are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the education service. [5489]

Tim Loughton: As at 30 June 2010 (latest information available), there were 13 temporary staff employed directly by the Department, and therefore on its payroll. The Department also has a call-off contract with two employment agencies, and on the same date, there were 16 agency staff working in the Department.

Information for the Department's non departmental public bodies is a matter for them and is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has no agencies.

Young People: Information

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of recent changes to local authority funding on the Secretary of State's responsibility to ensure the provision of statutory information, advice, guidance and support to young people in England. [4162]

Mr Gibb: The Government announced the local government contribution to cross-government savings on 10 June 2010. These savings include £311 million in the Department for Education's Area Based Grant (ABG) to local authorities in 2010/11. This reduction does not imply a direct cut to services funded by ABG, which include the provision of statutory information, advice and guidance to young people. The overall impact on total local government expenditure will be a 3.6% reduction, and we expect local authorities to manage this reduction across all their services, whether the initial funding source is formula or area-based. I am not expecting cuts to fall disproportionately on IAG services over others—these are critical services for young people. The Government believe that local authorities do have scope to make efficiencies this year.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 19 July 2010

DEFENCE

Trident

Katy Clark (North Ayrshire and Arran) (Lab): Given that Trident is costing us perhaps £1 billion or£2 billion every year, and an estimated £96 billion over its entire lifetime, does the Minister agree that we should listen to the military figures who are increasingly saying that it is not necessary and counting it as something to be considered in the comprehensive spending review?

Dr Fox: Ultimately, it is up to the Government to decide what the policy should be. There is a wide range of advice, military and otherwise. The House came to the conclusion that it did in 2007 on the basis that we believed that that was a cost-effective way for this country to go forward with a nuclear deterrent. We know that abroad there are a number of countries trying to develop nuclear weapons. We do not know what will happen between now and 2015—the time scale for the Trident replacement programme—and we cannot play fast and loose with Britain's defences.

[Official Report, 5 July 2010, Vol. 513, c. 3.]

Letter of correction from Dr Liam Fox:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) on 5 July 2010.

The correct answer should have been:

Dr Fox: Ultimately, it is up to the Government to decide what the policy should be. There is a wide range of advice, military and otherwise. The House came to the conclusion that it did in 2007 on the basis that we believed that that was a cost-effective way for this country to go forward with a nuclear deterrent. We know that abroad there are a number of countries trying to develop nuclear weapons. We do not know what will happen between now and 2050—the time scale for the Trident replacement programme—and we cannot play fast and loose with Britain's defences.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 27 July 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7451]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has spent £234 on hospitality.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred no cost on hospitality since 12 April.

[Official Report, 19 July 2010, Vol. 514, c. 5W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Paterson:

An error has been identified in relation to the answer given to the hon. Member for Weaver Vale (Graham Evans) on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 5W, on hospitality expenditure.

It has come to our attention that the figure of £234 was not up to date at the time of answering this Question as some relevant July costs had not been centrally recorded at the time the Question was answered. The updated figure should have been £438.63.

The corrected full answer should now read:

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has spent £438.63 on hospitality.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred no cost on hospitality since 12 April.